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Inspector held for conspiring to infect Ashok

BENGALURU
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Mela highlights cutting-edge digital farming

BENGALURU
This year's Krishi Mela, themed "Climate Smart Digital Farming", was inaugurated on Thursday at the GKVK, University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore. » Page 6

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AFSPA reimposed in six riot-hit areas of Manipur

Six police station limits in five districts declared 'disturbed areas'; Manipur govt. had withdrawn the Act in 2022 as the situation improved; this time around, Home Ministry issues notification

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday reimposed the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Manipur, declaring six police station limits in five districts "disturbed areas", in the wake of the ethnic violence in the State.

The Sekmai and Lamsang police station limits in Imphal West, Lamlai in Imphal East, the Jiribam station limits in Jiribam, Moirang in Bishnupur and Leimakhong in Kangpokpi districts have been declared disturbed areas to "carry out well-coordinated operations by the security forces" and contain activities of insurgent groups.

The AFSPA, which gives unbridled power to the armed forces, was withdrawn from these areas in April 2022 by the Manipur government as the security situation improved instilling a "large sense of security among the general public". The fresh order will be effective till March 31, 2025.

A notification issued by the Home Ministry said that on September 26, the Manipur government extended AFSPA in all the 10 hill districts of Manipur, excluding the 19 police station limits in six districts, mostly in the valley.

The Ministry said that after a review of the security situation in consultation with the stakeholders, it is noted that the "situation continues to remain volatile amidst ongoing ethnic violence..."

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Violence mounts: A truck damaged after armed militants set it on fire in Jiribam district on Thursday. PTI

Call for rescue of six abducted grows louder

GUWAHATI
The BJP in Manipur joined the Congress in mounting pressure on the State government for the safe return of six women and children missing since November 11. A day after the Congress's plea, State BJP president A. Sharda Devi appealed for their immediate release. » PAGE 18

Exports rebound, but import bill hits all-time high in Oct.

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's goods exports, which had clocked an anaemic 1% uptick in the first half of 2024-25, began the second half on a strong note with October shipments jumping at a 28-month high pace of 17.25% to touch $39.2 billion, this year's second best-tally.

However, this was accompanied by a 3.9% rise in the country's merchandise import bill, lifting it to a fresh record high of $66.34 billion, eclipsing this August's $64.34 billion import figure that was the highest at the time.

The merchandise trade deficit has thus widened from a five-month low of $20.8 billion in September to $27.14 billion in October, the second highest so far this financial year and the third highest ever.

Economists attributed the spike in the import bill primarily to higher gold and oil imports. Although the precious yellow metal's imports dropped a marginal 1.4% from last October to $7.13 billion, this was 62% higher than September's figure.

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Centre plays down anxieties about Trump

NEW DELHI
The Commerce Ministry on Thursday played down anxieties about Donald Trump's re-election as the U.S. President in light of his remarks about India being a "tariff abuser" just a notch below China, noting that trade ties have grown since 2001 and both countries' value chains are well-integrated. » PAGE 21

SIT to probe 'scam' during COVID-19

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Thursday decided to order a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the alleged multi-crore irregularities in COVID-19 procurements and management by the previous BJP government that were identified by the John Michael D'Cunha Inquiry Commission in its interim report.

A Cabinet meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, took the decision to form the SIT, which would be headed by an officer of the rank of Inspector-General of Police (IGP). Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H. K. Patil said the SIT would probe the criminal aspects, missing of files and and so on, and take action against all those involved in the 'scam'.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Mystery spinner Varun making the most of a shot at redemption

The architect from Chennai, who was a late bloomer and had a rough initiation into international cricket, has been on a purple patch in the white-ball format after rediscovering his mojo against Bangladesh and South Africa; he will do everything he can to become a regular member of the side in the lead-up to the 2026 T20 WC

AP

R. Kaushik

For three years, Varun Chakravarthy was overcome by a burning desire. Having flirted with international cricket, and not very successfully at that, the architect from Chennai was desperate for a second chance, for another opportunity to showcase his wares to a larger audience.

A late entrant to competitive cricket, Varun was 27 when he first played for Tamil Nadu, in the 50-over Vijay Hazare Trophy in September 2018. he broke into the Indian Twenty20 International team more than two and a half years later, during a tour of Sri Lanka in July 2021. That was on the back of a terrific first season in IPL 2020 for Kolkata Knight Riders, when he picked up 17 wickets in 13 games, at an impressive economy of 6.84 runs per over.

He is officially listed as a leg-break/googly bowler with a greater preference for the latter, but he had a terrific bag of tricks that contributed to the bamboozlement of batters of all class. It was no surprise that the tag 'mystery spinner' was quickly affixed to him, a tag that was further embellished by 18 wickets for KKR in IPL 2021.

Varun didn't have an outstanding tour of Sri Lanka, taking two wickets in 11.3 overs across three matches, but an economy rate of just over 5 and his pedigreed propensity to dismiss batters earned him a berth in the Indian squad for the T20 World Cup in the UAE in October-November 2021. Picked ahead of senior Tamil Nadu spinner R. Ashwin, he finished wicketless in both of India's first two losses, to Pakistan and New Zealand respectively. By failing to bag a wicket against Scotland too, Varun finished the World Cup without any success at all. By then, he hadn't taken a wicket in his last five T20Is, which ushered him out of the Indian team.

His travails spilled over to IPL 2022 when he had his worst season since his debut for Kings XI Punjab in 2019, 11 matches yielding a mere six scalps. To make matters worse, he went at 8.51 runs per over. Game over, the experts tut-tutted.

It could have been tempting for Varun to move on, to chuck it all away, because he was equipped for an alternative career, courtesy his engineering degree, and cricket wasn't being particularly kind to him. But showing that he is made of sterner stuff, Varun went back to the drawing board, made a conscious decision to reinvent himself and returned a more dangerous, rounded and lethal version in IPL 2023.

In that edition, he was a bowler transformed. The zip was back, the bite was cutting, success was immediate. He finished with 20 wickets for the season, then topped it up with 21 in IPL 2024, one of the key driving forces behind KKR's charge to a third title, a decade after their second success in 2014. It helped that when KKR regained the title this summer, in the dugout as mentor of the team was former captain Gautam Gambhir. Within months of that triumph, Gambhir would take charge as head coach of the Indian team. Varun's fortunes, shaped primarily by his lethal right arm, took a turn for the better.

Immediately after a 2-0 conquest of Bangladesh in the Test series, India were to play three T20Is against the same side, ahead of a three-match Test showdown against New Zealand. That was the cue for Varun to return to the national set-up. In his first appearance for the country in 35 months, after missing 86 T20Is, Varun snaffled three for 31 in Gwalior; in Delhi three nights later, he was even more impressive in taking two for 19 from his full quota. Welcome back, Varun Chakravarthy.

Almost a month later, as the Indian Test team was licking its wounds following the 0-3 home drubbing by New Zealand, V.V.S. Laxman flew out as head coach of the Suryakumar Yadav-led outfit for a four-match T20I series in South Africa. Varun was on that flight, of course, and extended his recent international success by finishing with three for 25 in his four overs in the opener in Durban to accelerate India's victory.

The next game was even more productive from an individual standpoint, Varun firming up his return with five for 17 in Gqeberha. His personal delight was tempered by a disappointing three-wicket loss in a low-scoring game, but Varun could take pride in the fact that single-handedly, he had made India's modest 124 for six appear a lot more formidable.

The process

So, what's changed with Varun? How has he rediscovered himself? "I had to go to the drawing board and check out all my videos. I figured out that I was bowling sidespin and it was not working out in the higher levels," Varun said in the immediacy of his fifer. "I had to change everything about my bowling. It took me two years and I started bowling in the local leagues and IPL also. It worked there and I have started bowling it in the international stage and it's working out for me.

"The overspin I bowl has more bite from the pitch and hopefully I can keep doing that and hopefully I can keep contributing for the country."

On Wednesday night, in India's nervy 11-run win in Centurion in game three, Varun took serious tap, conceding 54 in his four overs. But the two wickets he snared, of Reeza Hendricks and skipper Aiden Markram, swelled his tally of scalps for the series to ten, making him the first Indian bowler to take at least ten wickets in a bilateral T20I faceoff.

Varun is 33 now and will be the first to admit that he isn't the swiftest mover or the fittest soul in the Indian dugout. Much of that has to do with his late entry into the competitive sphere, but what he might lack in agility, he more than makes up for with skill. It has brought him this far; how much further remains to be seen.

At some stage in 2025, potentially immediately after the IPL in the summer, India's focus will turn to the 2026 T20 World Cup, which they will co-host alongside Sri Lanka. As the defending champions playing on home turf, India will feel the heat. They will feel the need to assemble a crack outfit that can emulate Rohit Sharma's Class of 2024. Whether Varun is part of that crack outfit, time, fitness and the thought process about seven months from now will decide.

Varun knows that if he keeps knocking batters over - sidespin, overspin or no spin - he will continue to feature seriously in all discussions surrounding team selection. Beyond that, things are out of his control. He can't influence ideologies and philosophies of the decision-making group, though he will be heartened by the presence in that sphere of influence of Gambhir.

For India's head coach, Varun isn't a defensive, run-denying option but an attacking, wicket-taking resource. "He was coaching the team when we played against Bangladesh and we spoke a lot," Varun revealed. "He gave me a lot of role clarity. He told, 'Even if you go for 30-40 runs, it doesn't matter. All you have to look is to pick wickets. That's your role in the team'. The clarity which he gave definitely helped me."

There is huge competition for places in the Indian T20I landscape, with multiple options abounding for every slot. Despite Ravindra Jadeja's retirement from the 20-over game internationally, India have a wealth of spinners to choose from, ranging from Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav to Washington Sundar and Ravi Bishnoi, among others. This depth is great from an Indian standpoint because there is insurance against untimely injuries or inopportune poor form. It's also wonderful for the individuals concerned if they choose to look at it from a positive perspective - nothing helps one keep raising the bar than healthy competition, which is precisely what's in abundance in Indian cricket at the moment across formats, the New Zealand crash-and-burn notwithstanding.

Varun's evolution as a cricketer has also triggered a slight change in outward persona. In the past, he didn't celebrate taking wickets with enthusiasm or exuberance and a world that places so much emphasis on 'body language' was quick to flood social media with misplaced negative opinions. It's unlikely that Varun is reacting to that, but he is displaying greater emotion on the cricket field than ever before. Whether it's good or not is besides the point; it's just different, like a lot of things Varun are these days.

There aren't any immediate T20I games for India after Friday's final fixture against the Proteas in Johannesburg. But not long from now, the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy inter-state T20 tournament will get underway, which in a way will be the perfect preparation for a short series against England in January-February, ahead of the 50-over Champions Trophy. Unless the dynamic changes considerably in the next couple of months, Varun will be out in the middle trying to outfox and outwit the Englishmen as he tries to continue to climb up the list of 'must haves' within the team's think-tank.

Ashwin is the clear leader in the art of redefining oneself and adding to their repertoire, but he has also spawned a little spinning revolution in Chennai with Washington and Varun taking a cue from his playbook and evolving and growing as wicket-takers in their own right. Now, how pleasing that must be for the slick off-spinner.

THE GIST

- A late entrant to competitive cricket, Varun was 27 when he first played for Tamil Nadu, in the 50-over Vijay Hazare Trophy in September 2018. he broke into the Indian Twenty20 International team more than two and a half years later, during a tour of Sri Lanka in July 2021
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- Showing that he is made of sterner stuff, Varun went back to the drawing board, made a conscious decision to reinvent himself and returned a more dangerous, rounded and lethal version in IPL 2023

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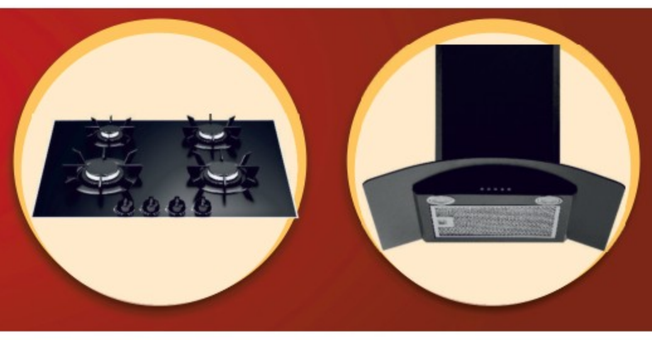

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The discovery of insulin and the 'Flame of Hope'

Sir Fredrick Banting's birth anniversary is observed as World Diabetes Day on November 14 every year as a tribute to the history behind the discovery of insulin, one of medicine's greatest breakthrough; the eternal Flame of Hope burns in Canada to honour Banting's achievement

C. Aravinda

Insulin is not a cure but a treatment, allowing people with diabetes to live near-normal lives. GETTY IMAGES

In human physiology, the endocrine glands act by releasing chemical messengers called hormones. They are produced in extraordinarily small quantities, ranging from 10^{-9} to 10^{-12} grams. They travel through the bloodstream to influence distant organs and tissues guiding bodily functions. Nervous and endocrine systems carry out a common mandate: to transmit the brain's instructions to peripheral organs and tissues. Unlike the nervous system, which operates through a network of neurons, the endocrine system executes the brain's orders across the body without an anatomical network.

The pancreas holds a unique position as both an endocrine and exocrine organ. It plays an important role in managing blood sugar levels through insulin.

Sir Fredrick Banting's birth anniversary is observed as World Diabetes Day on November 14 every year as a tribute to the history behind the discovery of insulin – one of medicine's greatest breakthroughs.

Type 1 DM

Type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) is an autoimmune disease where the immune system attacks insulin-beta cells in the pancreas, leading to high blood sugar resulting from insulin deficiency. Unlike type 2 DM, which is common in adults, T1DM often affects children and young adults. Globally, around 9 million people have T1DM. The incidence in India is 4.9 per 1,00,00 annually, per the information from PIB in 2022. The exact cause remains unknown, but genetic and environmental factors, including viral infections, are suspected.

Humans were fighting this illness till the last century without a clue. Symptoms of diabetes like, excessive thirst, frequent urination, and "sweet urine", were found in all major civilisations. It was not until the mid-19th century that meaningful progress began to decrypt the mystery. In 1869, Paul Langerhans discovered specialised clusters of cells within the pancreas – later known as the "islets of Langerhans" – and discovered the endocrine role in this organ.

In 1889, German physiologists Oskar Minkowski and Joseph von Merin experimented by surgically removing the pancreas from a healthy dog to investigate its role in digestion. Post-surgery, they observed that the dog developed symptoms characteristic of diabetes, notably, elevated blood sugar levels and the presence of sugar in the urine. This experiment established a direct link between the pancreas and blood sugar regulation. Despite these insights, between 1890 and 1920, several researchers tried, with many unsuccessful attempts, to discover the pancreas's role in diabetes.

Climax at the University of Toronto

After serving as an orthopaedic surgeon in the First World War, Frederick Banting returned to Canada as a war veteran. Driven to pursue research, he approached John Macleod, head of the physiology department at the University of Toronto, in 1920, with the idea of identifying the pancreatic secretion responsible for carbohydrate metabolism. Macleod, though hesitant, provided laboratory space and assigned Charles Best, a medical student, to assist him, Together, Banting and Best conducted experiments on dogs, leading to the successful isolation of insulin from the islets of Langerhans.

James Collip, a biochemist, played another important role in the practical application of insulin therapy. In 1921, he joined Banting and Best at the university. While Banting and Best had successfully extracted insulin, their preparations were impure and caused adverse reactions in patients. Collip developed a method for purifying insulin, removing toxic impurities, and ensuring its safety and efficacy, as the insulin was prepared mostly from dogs and cows. This was crucial as without Collip's efforts, insulin could not have been administered to patients, and Banting's discovery might have remained theoretical.

On January 11, 1922, Leonard Thompson, a 14-year-old boy with diabetes, became the first person to receive an injection of insulin. Unfortunately, the initial extract was impure, leading to an allergic reaction and minimal reduction in blood glucose levels. Recognising the need for improvement, Collip refined the purification process, producing a more potent and safer insulin extract. A second injection on January 23, 1922, resulted in a significant drop in blood glucose without adverse effects, marking a milestone for humanity. In 1923, the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Frederick Banting and John Macleod for discovering insulin, in a rare instance of the prize being granted so soon after discovery. Macleod provided Banting with laboratory space and assigned an assistant. However, the award sparked controversy as Banting felt that Best, who had been instrumental in the research, deserved recognition instead of Macleod. Conversely, Macleod believed Collip, who refined the insulin extraction process, deserved credit. In response, Banting shared half of his Nobel Prize money with Best, and Macleod did the same with Collip. Decades later, the Nobel Committee acknowledged the oversight in not including Best, expressing regret for his exclusion from the original award.

Symptoms of diabetes, like excessive thirst, frequent urination, and 'sweet urine', were found in all major civilisations; but humans were fighting this illness till the last century without a clue

Despite these conflicts, Banting, Best, Macleod, and Collip got to share their prize money among themselves. In a remarkable gesture, Banting sold the patent rights to the University of Toronto for just $1, ensuring that insulin could be produced widely and remain affordable.

Collip's extraction techniques to purify insulin were viable for human use but not scalable for mass production. As diabetes cases increased since then, it became clear that a more efficient method was essential. Enter recombinant DNA technology in the 1980s: scientists developed a method to insert the human insulin gene into *Escherichia coli* bacteria using plasmids – small DNA molecules capable of self-replication. This approach enabled bacteria to produce large quantities of insulin identical to that made by human bodies. The recombinant process allowed for mass production to keep up with the demand.

Flame of Hope

In 1989, Queen Elizabeth kindled the Flame of Hope in Sir Frederick G. Banting Square, London, Ontario, Canada, to honour Banting's discovery of insulin. This eternal flame stands as a hope for millions affected by diabetes worldwide, representing the commitment to continue research until a definitive cure is found. The flame will remain lit until a cure is discovered. As we consider Banting's legacy, we realise that insulin is not a cure but a treatment, allowing people with diabetes to live near-normal lives. His spirits might be happier when the flame of hope is extinguished after discovering a cure.

(Dr. C. Aravinda is an academic and public health physician. The views expressed are personal. aravindaaiimsjr10@hotmail.com)

Pharmacists issue caution over online platform for drug delivery

R. Sujatha

A recent move to deliver medicines through a food delivery platform in Bengaluru has raised concerns of patient safety. While pharmacists are vociferously objecting to the move, even doctors are cautious.

The announcement has been met with stiff resistance from chemists and druggists' associations. They are flagging several issues, including violation of laws governing their trade. Chemists and doctors say the government must take a call on policies to govern operation of online pharmacies.

The Tamil Nadu Chemists and Druggists Association president S. A. Ramesh says such a move violates the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940. As per the Rules, medicine should be dispensed by a qualified pharmacist after verification of the prescription, he points out.

Chemists and doctors say the government must take a call on policies to govern operation of online pharmacies. ISTOCKPHOTO

"We are against online sale of drugs. It is not as simple as buying groceries. We are talking about life-saving medicines. The corporates are using this as a commercial exercise, which is wrong," he argues. "The neighbourhood pharmacist knows the family for several decades and will ensure their wellbeing. The pharmacist's role is to instruct the patient on the method of taking the drug. We check for the authenticity of the prescription before dispensing a drug. In the case of such online platforms, how do we know if a pharmacist is dispensing the prescribed drug in the right dosage," he asks.

Abul Hassan, president of the Tamil Nadu chapter of the Indian Medical Association, says a drawback is lack of quality control of online pharmacies.

"At present the drug controller can pick up samples randomly from a pharmacy for quality checks, preventing chances of spurious drugs entering the market," he explains.

He flags concerns such as displacement of thousands of people employed in medical shops and abuse and misuse of prescription drugs without consulting a doctor.

On the flip side, online pharmacies would make drugs cheaper as the medicine will be directly distributed from the company. Also, drugs that are not available in the city can be procured online, helping patients, he points out.

He cites the United Kingdom's model that requires a patient to upload the prescription to a centralised system. "Once the drugs are issued the prescription becomes invalid. A similar policy guideline would help in our country," he says.

(sujatha.r@thehindu.co.in)

Weightlifting has been associated with building muscles, but its benefits are far more. GETTY IMAGES

The science behind health benefits of heavy lifting

Nanditha

Weightlifting is not just for bodybuilders or athletes; it is a powerful form of exercise for everyone. From strengthening bones and muscles to preventing chronic diseases and improving mental health, weightlifting offers benefits that reach far beyond the gym.

For years, exercise was almost synonymous with cardiovascular activities like running, cycling, and swimming. But in recent decades, weightlifting or strength training has gained popularity, not only as a path to muscle strength but also as a powerful tool for long-term health.

Beyond muscles

Weightlifting has long been associated with building muscles, but its benefits reach far beyond aesthetics or physical strength. According to research from the journal *Preventive Medicine*, weightlifting improves multiple aspects of physical health, making it a top contender for long-term wellness.

Here is how it impacts the human body: bone and muscle health. One of the most impressive benefits of weightlifting is its effect on bone health. With age, there tends to be a decline in bone mineral density (BMD), leading to osteoporosis, higher risk of fractures, and related mobility issues. Weightlifting could provide a powerful solution for this. Mechanical stress through weight lifting is said to increase BMD. This process is particularly valuable for older adults, to avoid the natural decline in bone density and strength. Furthermore, there is also a decline in muscle mass with age, termed as sarcopenia. Sarcopenia can have detrimental effects on metabolic health and physical fitness. Weightlifting helps to build muscle mass and prevent sarcopenia, even in the elderly.

Weightlifting or strength training has gained popularity, not only as a path to muscle strength but also as a powerful tool for long-term health

It also has metabolic benefits, helping with weight management. While aerobic exercise is known to burn calories during the activity, weightlifting offers a unique metabolic advantage. After a weightlifting session, the body continues to burn calories even at rest, a phenomenon known as "excess post-exercise oxygen consumption". Building muscle also supports a higher resting metabolic rate. This effect helps with long-term weight management as well.

Believe it or not, weightlifting actually prevents joint injury, by strengthening the muscles around the joints. When muscle strength improves, it stabilises joints, reducing the likelihood of strains, sprains, and other injuries that often occur due to weak muscles and poor joint support. For athletes, people with physically-demanding jobs, or anyone looking to stay active even in later life, the joint-protective benefits of weightlifting are invaluable.

(Dr. Nanditha is director and diabetologist at A. Ramachandran's Diabetes Hospitals, Chennai. She was also the gold medalist at the Chennai District Powerlifting event, 2021. dr.nanditha.arun@gmail.com)

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Inspector arrested for conspiring with MLA to infect Ashok

Alleged incident took place in 2020, when the byelection to R.R. Nagar constituency was delayed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged crimes of R. R. Nagar BJP MLA, Munirathna, on Thursday arrested Iyan Reddy, police inspector currently posted at Hebbagodi police station, for allegedly conspiring with Mr. Munirathna to infect Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and former Revenue Minister, R. Ashok, with HIV infected blood.

Munirathna and R. Ashok

Bypoll delayed

The alleged incident took place in 2020, when the byelection to R.R. Nagar constituency was delayed owing to an election petition questioning Mr. Munirathna's election in 2018 by BJP leader Tulasi Muniraju Gowda.

Mr. Munirathna had defected to BJP from Congress in July 2019, along with 16 others toppling the Janata Dal (S)-Congress coalition government. While elections to the rest of the seats were held in December 2019, the bypoll to R. R. Nagar seat was delayed.

The complainant in a rape case against Mr. Munirathna had alleged that the MLA had been using a HIV-infected woman to honey trap his opponents and tried to infect Mr. Ashok with HIV-infected blood.

Velu Nayakar, a former councillor and an associate of Mr. Munirathna, who has now fallen out with him, made a statement that in his presence Mr. Iyan Reddy and Mr. Munirathna tried to convince a youth to prick Mr. Ashok with a needle smeared with HIV-infected blood during his birthday celebrations [Mr. Ashok's] in July 2020. Mr. Nayakar claimed that after this, he advised the youth to run away and not be trapped in this crime and eventually the plan did not materialise.

Statement recorded

The SIT has now tracked down the said youth and recorded his statement before a magistrate, where he reportedly said that Mr. Iyan Reddy and Mr. Munirathna indeed tried to convince him to infect Mr. Ashok with HIV-infected blood.

Following his statement, the SIT arrested Mr. Iyan Reddy on Thursday. He has been charged with criminal conspiracy to murder Mr. Ashok.

HC bars ICTPI from enrolling candidates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka restrained Bengaluru-based Institute of Chartered Tax Practitioners India (ICTPI) from enrolling candidates into any course, certifying any person to practise as an income-tax or goods and services tax practitioner and custom broker, etc., till further orders from the court.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the interim order on a petition filed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), which has complained that ICTPI is offering courses illegally.

The court specifically restrained the ICTPI from enrolling candidates in Post Graduate Diploma in Taxation, Professional Skill Qualification, Recognition for Prior Learning and similar courses in relation to tax practice, etc.

The court also restrained ICTPI from enrolling any person or body under the category of affiliates, associates, fellows, honorary and academic for the purpose of offering any courses relating to tax laws and related courses or for issuance of any licences, certificates, etc.

While contending that "ICTPI appears to have created fictitious courses to offer to the general public without any legal recognition," the ICAI has said that the Ministry of Finance, the Registrar of Companies and the University Grants Commission have not taken any action against the ICTPI despite submitting several representations about the alleged illegal activities of ICTPI, which is a company registered under Section 8 (formulation of companies with charitable objects, etc) of the Companies Act, 2013.

"The courses offered by the ICTPI are in contravention of Section 15A of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, which restricts universities or bodies from offering courses in the field of education dealt with by the petitioner institute. The ICTPI is prescribing courses on its whims and fancy to mislead the general public that is, in fact, a legitimate degree offered by it to the students under a statute, which is not the case," the ICAI claimed in its petition.

Owner of private school arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Madanayakanahalli police on Thursday arrested a 50-year-old secretary-cum-owner of a private school for allegedly misbehaving with a group of girl students in the school.

Based on a complaint by the victims, the police arrested the man, charging him under various sections of the POCSO Act. The accused would call a group of class 10 girls to his office, misbehave with them and touch them inappropriately, it is alleged.

The girls narrated this to their parents who staged a protest outside the school demanding action against the accused. The police, along with the BEO of Bengaluru North, conducted an inquiry and secured the accused for further investigation.

Bharat Coking Coal Limited
'A Mini Ratna Comnany'
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
BCCL
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
G20

NOTICE

All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of **BCCL www.bcclweb.in,** Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in.** *This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

APPOINTMENT

HIMALAYA MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL
Managed By : Himalaya Educational Trust
Chiksi, (SH-69) Paliganj, Patna - 801110
Contact: 9031068030, 9264469782
Email: hr@hmcedu.in | Website: www.hmcedu.in
RECRUITMENT
Application are invited from eligible candidates for appointment

DOCTORS
MS/MD WITH + 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE
Dermatologist, Radiologist, Otolaryngologist, Ophthalmologist, General Medicine, Psychiatrist, General Surgery, ENT, Paediatrician, Anesthesiologist, Gynecologist, Orthopedist

NURSES & PARAMEDICS
WITH + 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE
DNS, ANS, STAFF NURSE, M.Sc. NURSING
OT ASSISTANT, DIALYSIS TECHNICIAN, PAEDIATRICIAN

JOB LOCATION : Chiksi, SH-69, Kinjar Road, Paliganj, Patna (Bihar)- 801110
INTERVIEW DATE & TIME
DATE 17 /Nov/ 2024
TIMING 10:00 AM TO 06:00 PM
INTERVIEW LOCATION
St. Mary's Institute of Nursing 69/70, 4th Main Road, Pampa Extension, Hebbal Kempapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ADVERTISEMENT INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM ELIGIBLE AND WILLING CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLORS OF TWO UNIVERSITIES IN WEST BENGAL

Memo No. 41-Edn(UC)/hed-12015(99)/4/2024 Dated:15/11/2024

1. In terms of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 08.07.2024 in Special Leave Petition (Civil) No.17403 of 2023, applications were invited from the interested candidates for recommending names for consideration as Vice-Chancellors of 36 State aided Universities in West Bengal. In the process undertaken thereafter, the concerned Search-cum-Selection Committees have unanimously recommended three names in alphabetical order with respect to 34 out of 36 Universities. However, with respect to West Bengal University of Health Sciences and Rabindra Bharati University, the concerned Search-cum-Selection Committees have recommended that fresh process be undertaken after giving wide publicity in major cities of the country.

2. This advertisement is therefore issued for inviting applications from eminent academicians for being considered for appointment to the posts of Vice-Chancellors of the aforesaid two Universities. Those who had applied earlier for these Universities need not apply afresh and their existing applications shall be considered along with fresh applications.

3. **West Bengal University of Health Sciences** is a University having control over all Medical, Dental, Ayurvedic, Unani, Homeopathic and other Para-Medical Colleges in the State. There are about 300 colleges imparting education in these disciplines which are affiliated to this University. The age of retirement for the post of Vice Chancellor is 65 years.

4. **Rabindra Bharati University** was established by the State of West Bengal to commemorate the birth centenary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. The University was established to impart teaching in subjects touching upon the area of activity of Gurudev and also to impart education in subjects such as History, Economics, Political Science, Fine arts, visual arts etc. The age of retirement for the post of Vice-Chancellor is 70 years.

5. Paragraph 7.3 of the UGC Regulation dated 18.7.2018 on **Minimum qualifications for appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and measures for the maintenance of standards in Higher Education, 2018** is quoted here for the attention of all concerned.

VICE-CHANCELLOR:

i. A person possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment is to be appointed as Vice-Chancellor. The person to be appointed as a Vice-Chancellor should be a distinguished academician, with a minimum of ten years of experience as a Professor in a University or ten years of experience in a reputed research and/ or academic administrative organization with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership.

ii. The selection for the post of Vice-Chancellor should be through proper identification by a Panel of 3-5 persons by a Search-cum-Selection Committee, through a public notification or nomination or a talent search process or a combination thereof. The members of such Search-cum-Selection Committee shall be persons' of eminence in the sphere of higher education and shall not be connected in any manner with the University concerned or its colleges. While preparing the panel, the Search-cum-Selection Committee shall give proper weightage to the academic excellence, exposure to the higher education system in the country and abroad, and adequate experience in academic and administrative governance, to be given in writing along with the panel to be submitted to the Visitor/ Chancellor....."

6. In terms of relevant regulations of the University Grants Commission a candidate possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment is eligible to apply, provided:

i) The Applicant is a distinguished academician, with a minimum of 10 years of experience as a Professor in a University.

OR

ii) The Applicant has ten years of experience in a reputed research and/ or academic administrative organization with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership.

iii) An application should be sent on plain paper, with a detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) [in 7 sets], in a sealed envelope, with address above written on it. The name of the University for which the application is submitted with written in bold letters on both the envelope and the application. If an Applicant chooses to apply for more than one University, applications [and CV] for each case will be submitted separately in separate envelopes. The Applicants shall also mention their mail id and contact phone numbers on the body of the application and on the first page of the CV.

iv) The Applicant in his CV shall enclose age proof certificate and testimonials that he has completed 10 years of service as Professor in a University and/ or testimonials that he possesses ten years' of experience in a reputed research and/or academic administrative organization with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership.

v) Every applicant is advised to see the relevant statutes and regulation of the University he/ she is preferring the application for.

7. The Applicant shall send the application and the accompanying documents addressed to the Hon'ble Chairperson of the Search-cum-Selection Committees so as to reach **on or before 15.12.2024** at the office of Smt. Chandani Tudu, IAS, Senior Special Secretary, Higher Education Department, Room No.618, 6th Floor, Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091 and ex-officio Honorary Secretary to the Search-cum-Selection Committees, constituted in compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 08.07.2024.

8. The Applicant shall additionally upload the digital copies of the application and the accompanying documents to the following email id – **highereducationwbgovt@gmail.com**.

9. It is clarified that even if the physical copy is received after the date prescribed but the application was received in digital form by the date prescribed, the application shall be treated as valid and proper.

(Issued under the Order of the Hon'ble Chairperson of the Search-cum-Selection Committees constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India)

ICA- N 513(2)/2024

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

South Africa denies help to illegal miners to escape closed mines

4,000 Miners in the mineshaft in Stilfontein are believed to be suffering from a lack of basic necessities. It is part of the police's Close the Hole operation, which includes cutting off miners' supplies to force them to return to the surface and be arrested. AP

Funds for developing countries to combat climate change

1 in $ trillion. Negotiators at the UN climate conference in Azerbaijan should focus on mobilising $1 trillion per year by 2030 to help meet the Paris Agreement goals, a new report by the Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance said. This is needed from both public and private sources. PTI

Assistance funds given per quintal of paddy to Odisha farmers

800 in ₹ Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday said the State government will pay this additional sum to farmers as input assistance, taking the total amount to ₹3,100 per quintal. Cultivators, he said, are often affected by different calamities. PTI

Persons detained on Thursday under 'Operation Kawach'

1,224 Operation Kawach is an initiative which the Delhi Police takes from time to time to take action against the criminals and drug traffickers who were allegedly involved in activities of possessing illegal firearms, thefts, banned drugs, and illegal liquor. PTI

Chandigarh's AQI on Thursday, a record worst

427 Chandigarh recorded the worst air quality in the country on Thursday, with its air quality index falling in the 'severe' category for the first time this season, according to the Central Pollution Control Board's Sameer app. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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How will SDS visa move hit students?

What is the Student Direct Stream visa? How did it benefit Indian students seeking to study in Canada? Why did the Canadian government decide to discontinue the fast-track visa programme? What other visa options are available to Indian students?

EXPLAINER

Ram Srinivasan

The story so far:
In a significant development, the Canadian government announced the discontinuation of the Student Direct Stream (SDS) visa in November 2024. This decision has far-reaching implications for Indian students, who have historically been one of the largest groups of international students in Canada. In 2022, India accounted for over 21% of all international students in Canada, with a staggering number of 222,450 Indian students choosing to study in Canadian institutions. Over 189,000 Indian students opted for the SDS visa that year, which significantly simplified their application process. For instance, while non-SDS applicants had an approval rate of 19%, SDS applicants enjoyed a 63% approval rate.

Shifting tides: In 2022, India accounted for over 21% of all international students in Canada, with a staggering number of 222,450 Indian students choosing to study in Canadian institutions. AP

THE GIST

- The Canadian government discontinued the Student Direct Stream (SDS) visa in November 2024. This decision has far-reaching implications for Indian students.
- The SDS visa offered faster processing, lower application fees, and simpler documentation, making it a popular option for students.
- It was often seen as a pathway to permanent residency, and its discontinuation creates uncertainty about future immigration prospects.
- Indian students can still apply for the standard student visa, though it requires more time and preparation.

What is the Canadian SDS visa?
The SDS visa, introduced in 2018, was a streamlined pathway designed to expedite the study permit application process for Indian students. It offered a faster processing time and reduced application fees, making it a popular choice among Indian students aspiring to pursue higher education in Canada. However, it also served students from other countries, including Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Vietnam. The SDS visa was specifically tailored to offer several key benefits to international students.

One of the primary advantages was its significantly reduced processing time. By meeting specific eligibility criteria, such as a higher level of English language proficiency and a confirmed admission to a Designated Learning Institution (DLI), students could expect a quicker decision on their study permit application.

The SDS visa also offered a lower application fee than the standard study permit, which significantly reduced the financial burden for many international students.

It simplified the application process by requiring fewer supporting documents. By adhering to the specific eligibility requirements, students could submit a more streamlined application, making it easier to navigate the immigration process.

Why was the SDS visa discontinued?
The Canadian government's decision to discontinue the SDS visa program was driven by a combination of factors aimed at addressing various challenges and concerns within the immigration system.

On his X handle on September 19, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, "We are granting 35% fewer international student permits this year. And next year, that number is going down by another 10%. Immigration is an advantage for our economy – but when bad actors abuse the system and take advantage of students, we crack down." This refers to international applicants who applied for the SDS as an excuse to take a simple diploma course, hardly worth going abroad for, with their ultimate goal being to apply for permanent residency.

While the official reasons cited by the government focused on "strengthening program integrity, addressing student vulnerability, and giving all students equal and fair access to the application process," several underlying factors likely contributed to this decision. Canada has been grappling with a significant housing shortage, particularly in major cities such as Toronto and Vancouver, and the rapid influx of international students, many of whom rely on off-campus housing, has exacerbated this issue. The increasing number of international students has also placed a strain on public services and infrastructure, including healthcare, education, and transportation.

The Canadian government may be reassessing its immigration policies to better manage the inflow of foreign students and ensure they contribute positively to the Canadian economy.

By discontinuing the SDS visa, the government aims to regulate the number of international students, alleviate pressure on housing and resources, and implement a more equitable approach to student visa processing.

How does the discontinuation affect Indian students?
The discontinuation of the SDS visa has undoubtedly had an impact on Indian students seeking to pursue higher education in Canada and has introduced a host of challenges.

One of the most immediate consequences of the SDS visa's discontinuation is the prolonged processing time for student visa applications. Before the SDS visa, the average processing time for student visas was significantly longer. With the removal of this expedited pathway, Indian students can expect to wait for a more extended period. This delay can disrupt academic plans and cause significant inconvenience.

Additionally, the discontinuation has led to increased application fees. While the exact fee structure may vary, it is generally higher for standard student visa applications than the SDS visa. This additional financial burden can be a considerable challenge, especially for students from lower-income backgrounds.

Furthermore, the application process for standard student visas is more complex and rigorous than the SDS visa. Students are required to submit a wider range of documents, including proof of funds, language proficiency test scores, and detailed study plans. The increased complexity can be overwhelming and time-consuming, potentially leading to errors and delays.

The direct impacts of the SDS visa's discontinuation have far-reaching indirect consequences for Indian students. Potential delays in study plans can disrupt academic progress and career aspirations. Students may have to defer their admissions or explore alternative study destinations, which can impact their overall educational journey.

Moreover, this has created uncertainty about future immigration opportunities. The SDS visa was often seen as a stepping stone towards permanent residency in Canada. With this pathway no longer available, Indian students may face increased challenges in securing post-study work opportunities and ultimately immigrating to Canada.

Experts and stakeholders have expressed concerns about the discontinuation and its potential impact on Indian students. Immigration consultants and education advisors have highlighted the increased processing times, higher application fees, and stricter eligibility criteria associated with the regular student visa process.

Social media platforms have been abuzz with discussions, with many students expressing frustration and uncertainty about their study plans. One student, commenting on a popular education forum, lamented, "The SDS visa was a game-changer. It made the application process much smoother. Now, with its discontinuation, I'm worried about potential delays and increased costs." While the Canadian government has cited concerns about program integrity and equitable access, critics argue that the decision may deter talented Indian students from choosing Canada as their study destination.

What other options do Indian students have?
While the discontinuation of the SDS visa has presented challenges for Indian students, seeking to study in Canada, there are still viable alternative visa options available. The traditional student visa remains a primary pathway for international students, including Indians. By meeting the eligibility criteria, such as proof of funds, language proficiency, and a Letter of Acceptance from a DLI, students can apply for a student visa.

However, it is important to note that the standard student visa application process can be more time-consuming and requires a more comprehensive documentation package compared to the SDS visa. Additionally, students may face longer processing times and increased application fees.

To enhance their chances of visa approval, Indian students should carefully plan their applications, submit all required documents on time, and consider consulting with immigration experts to navigate the complexities of the process.

The longer processing times, higher fees, and more complex application procedures have created significant hurdles. The indirect consequences, such as delayed study plans, increased financial burden, and uncertainty about future immigration opportunities further compound the challenges faced by Indian students.

For Indian students considering studying in Canada, it is crucial to plan ahead and prepare thoroughly. Early application is key, as it allows ample time for processing and addressing any potential issues. Thorough documentation is essential to meet the stringent requirements of the regular student visa process.

While the discontinuation of the SDS visa has presented challenges, it is important to remain hopeful for future changes or the introduction of alternative streamlined pathways for international students.

As the Canadian government continues to evolve its immigration policies, new opportunities may arise for Indian students. By staying informed and taking proactive steps, Indian students can navigate the complexities of the Canadian immigration system and achieve their academic and career goals.

(Ram Srinivasan is co-founder & CEO of Galvanize Global Education that provides guidance for students aspiring to do their Bachelor's, Master's, PhD, or MBA abroad. He holds an MBA from IIM Ahmedabad)

ADVERTISEMENT

Energy Efficient Uttarakhand

"The Uttarakhand State Solar Policy 2023 is evidence of our dedication to a sustainable and profitable tomorrow. By harnessing the power of solar energy, we strive to not only secure our energy requirements but also encourage economic development and create multiple livelihood prospects, especially for the youth and women. Our vision is to make Uttarakhand a forerunner in clean energy, assuring a brighter, greener future for all."

- Pushkar Singh Dhami,
Chief Minister of Uttarakhand

Pioneering a clean energy future

Under the guidance of PM Narendra Modi and the able leadership of Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami, the state government introduced Uttarakhand State Solar Policy 2023. This policy strives to lessen dependency on fossil fuels, foster renewable energy, and assure energy security and inclusive economic development

Pics: DIPR, Govt of Uttarakhand

>> ***Pushkar Singh Dhami, CM, Uttarakhand; R Meenakshi Sundaram, secretary energy;*** *and other dignitaries participating at UREDA event*

Ensconced in the Himalayan belt of northern India, Uttarakhand is recognized for its natural magnificence, rich biodiversity, and spiritual value. However, the state encounters substantial perils from global warming and climate change. Acknowledging the pressing necessity to transition to cleaner energy, the Uttarakhand government has introduced the Uttarakhand State Solar Policy 2023. This policy strives to lessen dependence on fossil fuels, foster renewable energy, and assure energy security and inclusive economic development.

Vision

The vision of the Uttarakhand State Solar Policy 2023 is to support the clean energy transition by mainstreaming solar energy. The policy aims to accelerate solar energy deployment via distributed solar systems, ingenious business models, and increased adoption of solar applications across different sectors. By leveraging solar energy, the state strives to improve power system stability, encourage rural incomes, enhance the reliability and quality of electricity supply, and create livelihood prospects, especially for youth and women.

Regulatory Framework

The Uttarakhand State Solar Policy 2023, superseding the Uttarakhand Solar Energy Policy 2013, is developed under the provisions of the Electricity Act of 2003. The policy requires the Uttarakhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission (UERC) and the state government to promote renewable energy, assuring the adoption of cleaner energy forms.

Key Provisions

To achieve the policy targets, several key provisions have been summarised:

Green Tariff

Discoms will create provisions for interested consumers to procure clean electricity from renewable sources at predetermined rates, known as the 'Green Tariff.' The UERC will introduce economically attractive green tariff rates to encourage early adoption of green energy.

Feed-in-Tariff

The UERC will introduce feed-in tariffs for distributed solar power plants set up by residential, agricultural, government, and institutional consumers to compensate for excess generation injected into the grid.

Metering and Peer-to-Peer Trading

The policy promotes virtual and group net metering, allowing consumers with inadequate rooftop areas to adopt solar. Further, peer-to-peer trading using blockchain technologies will be promoted, allowing consumers to sell power to other grid consumers.

Banking

100% energy banking will be permitted during all 12 months, with energy settlement done monthly. The UERC will determine compensation for banked energy based on peak and off-peak hours.

Open Access

The policy ensures that captive/group-captive solar plants will be exempt from transmission and wheeling charges. Discoms are required to process open-access applications within 21 days.

Implementation Mechanisms

The policy introduces several ingenious mechanisms to encourage solar deployment:

Solar Policy Cell and Single Window Portal

A dedicated Solar Policy Cell will be created by UREDA to streamline the approval process through a single window portal, providing statutory clearances and approvals within 60 days.

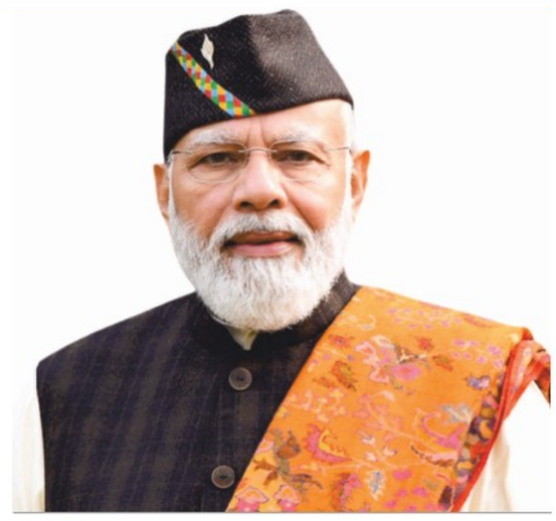
Data Rooms

UREDA will establish data rooms to host information on available land parcels, building details, and rooftop solar potential of government buildings.

OBJECTIVES

The policy summarises several essential objectives to achieve its vision:

- Reach a cumulative capacity of 2500 MW by December 2027 across diversified project portfolios.
- Accelerate solar investment via improved deployment mechanisms, incentives, and business models.
- Provide reliable electricity access to rural consumers in distant places by encouraging solar plus storage solutions.
- Support solar-based livelihood applications and occupation prospects, fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- Incorporate tourism into the energy transition with incentives and innovative business models.
- Promote agro-photovoltaics to boost agricultural income.
- Provide training for skill development, focusing on vulnerable communities to create employment through solar project deployment.



"Since 2014, India has increased its solar installation capacity by 30 times. We want to make every household in India a solar power home. From houses to roads, India has moved on the path of energy-efficient lighting. Through all these efforts, green jobs are being created in very large numbers. India of the 21st century is moving ahead with education, skill, research, and innovation."

-Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister

Payment Security Mechanism

Payment security mechanisms, such as ESCROW accounts or letters of credit, will be created to ensure timely payments to developers selling RE to government departments and Discoms.

Land Banks and Direct Benefits to Local Communities

UREDA will facilitate the setting up of land banks and identify suitable government and private lands for solar power plant installation. The policy mandates that at least 50% of the employment potential during project construction and operation stages be provided to bonafide residents of Uttarakhand, with a preference for displaced communities.

Manufacturing Incentives

The policy promotes solar manufacturing facilities with incentives such as priority land allotment, electricity duty waivers, stamp duty reimbursements, SGST reimbursement, and customs duty exemptions on inputs required for manufacturing solar modules and battery storage.

The Uttarakhand State Solar Policy 2023 is an exhaustive framework to accelerate the state's transition to renewable energy. By harnessing the potential of solar energy, Uttarakhand strives to attain its sustainability goals, improve energy security, and foster inclusive economy.

Initiating renewable energy endeavours

UREDA's mission involves improving energy access, encouraging sustainability, and promoting financial growth via different schemes

The Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (UREDA), operating under the Energy & Renewable Energy Department of the Government of Uttarakhand, has been at the vanguard of propelling the state's renewable energy initiatives. UREDA's mission involves improving energy access, encouraging sustainability, and promoting financial growth via different ingenious programmes and schemes.

Mukhyamantri Saur Swarozgar Yojana (MSSY)

The Mukhyamantri Saur Swarozgar Yojana (MSSY) aims to enhance self-employment and entrepreneurship development through solar energy in Uttarakhand. Launched in March 2023, the scheme expanded its capacity options to include not only 20/25 kW solar power plants but also higher capacity installations of 50, 100, and 200 kW. Exclusively available to permanent residents of Uttarakhand, MSSY has set an ambitious target of establishing a total solar power capacity of 250 MW. Beneficiaries can access all benefits permissible under the MSME framework, with potential monthly incomes reaching up to Rs 1 lakh from these solar plants. In a notable example, 19 solar power plants are being set up in Kukreda, a remote block in Uttarkashi district, under the Chief Minister Solar Self-Employment Scheme. Out of approximately 1,077 projects (192.595 MW) allocated under MSSY, projects totalling 67 MW have been allotted in Tehri district. Additionally, 89 projects (16 MW) have been installed, with 44 of these projects allotted in Tehri.

Solar Rooftops on Government Buildings

UREDA is enhancing the use of government structures for renewable energy generation, setting a target capacity of 60 MW for rooftop solar installations. Currently, 9 MW has been installed across 305 government buildings. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the state government has sanctioned a budget of 100 crore for the first phase of this initiative and received proposals for an additional 24.5 MW capacity across 1,695 buildings. The installation of solar power plants will promote a green economy along with creating employment opportunities.

PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

The PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana aims to promote the installation of solar power plants in Uttarakhand by providing substantial financial incentives to beneficiaries. In addition to grants from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the Central Government, the State Government offers matching grants, significantly enhancing the financial support for solar energy initiatives. For instance, beneficiaries can receive grants of up to Rs 33,000 per kW for solar power plants ranging from 1 to 2 kW, along with additional support for larger capacities. Since the scheme's inception, 25,888 applications have been submitted, resulting in the commissioning of 8,143 solar power plants with a combined capacity of 31.5 MW. Central grants have been disbursed to 2,618 applicants, while UREDA has issued state grants totaling Rs 7.03 crore to 1,384 beneficiaries, representing a capacity of 5.59 MW.

Solar Water Heater Program

UREDA provides a 50% state subsidy for domestic installations and a 30% subsidy for commercial solar water heater systems. With a target of 1.7 lakh liters per day (LPD) and a budget provision of ₹1.5 crore for 2024-25, the program has disbursed subsidies amounting to one crore for installations approx 1.29 lakh LPD.

Micro, Mini & Small Hydropower Projects

UREDA is backing hydropower projects to assure village electrification and grid strengthening. Presently, 41 hydro projects with a cumulative capacity of 14.65 MW are operational across state, furnishing renewable energy to different rural locales. A total of six hydro projects in all the four shrines have been established to ensure regular power supply to all Char Dhams and uphill regions.

Solar Streetlight/High Mast Light

This community-centric program concentrates on installing solar street and high mast lights in rural areas, improving safety.

National Biogas Program

In collaboration with the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, the Government of India, UREDA is implementing the National Biogas Program to meet rural energy needs. The program offers financial assistance of ₹17,000 for 1 cubic meter biogas plants and ₹22,000 for 2-4 cubic meter plants, promoting sustainable energy solutions in rural areas.

Energy Conservation Program

UREDA's energy conservation efforts include developing model villages to raise public awareness about energy savings. Initiatives such as replacing conventional bulbs, tube lights, and fans with energy-efficient devices in government schools, health centers, and other public buildings are underway.

Leading the charge in energy sector excellence

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited (UPCL) is a supreme entity in the energy sector, serving over 2.9 million electricity consumers across Uttarakhand. With an expansive infrastructure that contains more than 375 substations, over 45,000 KM of 11 KV lines, and upwards of 70,000 KM of low-tension lines, UPCL is dedicated to delivering reliable electricity to all parts of the state.

UPCL's mission is to empower the socio-economic growth of Uttarakhand by enforcing a cutting-edge distribution network and maximizing consumer satisfaction through IT-enabled solutions. Significant accomplishments include a record revenue collection of Rs. 9,880 Crore in FY 2023-24, a substantial decrease in AT&C losses to 14.85%, and securing the 1st position among Himalayan states in the latest Consumer Service Rating of Discom (CSRD) by the REC.

The corporation has adopted technological advances, such as the "Consumer Self-Service" mobile application and the Field Activity Management (FAM) mobile application, to enhance service delivery and operational efficiency. In FY 2023-24, UPCL ensured an impressive average power supply of 23:41 hours per day in urban areas and 23:28 hours per day in rural areas.

UPCL's dedication to quality and governance is evidenced by its various certifications and awards, including NABL certification for its test laboratories and ISO 9001:2015 certification for its corporate office. These efforts highlight UPCL's dedication to providing reliable electricity and driving Uttarakhand's socio-economic growth.

>> ***Pushkar Singh Dhami, CM, Uttarakhand,*** *inaugurates RMU works at Uttarkashi*

CM Dhami inaugurates RMU works in Uttarkashi

In a significant move towards enhancing power generation capabilities in Uttarakhand, Cm Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the Renovation, Modernization, and Upgradation (RMU) works at the Tiloth Power House, operated by Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (UJVNL). This initiative aims to rejuvenate aging power infrastructure and boost electricity output.

The RMU project targets power houses with outdated equipment and diminishing generation capacity. At the Tiloth Power House, extensive repairs and renovations of the existing machinery have been undertaken. This initiative has successfully increased the installed capacity from 90 MW to 94.5 MW, leading to a remarkable surge in annual electricity generation.

Prior to the RMU, the Tiloth Power House produced approximately 397 million units of electricity per year. Post-upgrade, this figure is expected to soar to around 483 million units, reflecting an impressive increase of nearly 22%. Additionally, the availability of machinery has improved from 73.67% to 77.5%, ensuring more reliable power supply. Financially, the RMU project is projected to significantly enhance revenue. Previously generating around Rs 57 crore annually, the Tiloth Power House is now expected to yield approximately Rs 97 crore—a potential increase of Rs 40 crore. This uptick in production and revenue is set to not only bolster the financial health of UJVNL but also contribute positively to the state's economy.

CM Dhami emphasised the importance of such initiatives in strengthening the state's power supply system, asserting that the advancements in infrastructure will ultimately benefit both the corporation and the residents of Uttarakhand. The successful implementation of RMU works at Tiloth Power House marks a significant step forward.

>> ***Pushkar Singh Dhami, CM, Uttarakhand; R Meenakshi Sundaram, secretary energy;*** *and other dignitaries inaugurating power projects*

Transforming Uttarakhand's power supply

The Ministry of Power, Government of India, has established the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) to revolutionize electricity distribution across India. For Uttarakhand, the Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) is the nodal agency for enforcing this transformative scheme.

The RDSS seeks to improve the power supply experience for consumers in Uttarakhand with pivotal objectives, including improving quality and reliability, reducing Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses to 12-15% by 2024-25, and eliminating the gap between Average Cost of Supply (ACS) and Average Revenue Realized (ARR) by the same year.

A critical component of the RDSS is the introduction of prepaid smart metering, which will improve operational efficiency via Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). This technology will automate energy flow measurement and enhance energy accounting.

Uttarakhand's distribution infrastructure will experience extensive upgrades, such as replacing old conductors, installing additional high-tension lines, and deploying Arial Bunched Cables (ABC) and High Voltage Distribution Systems (HVDS) in high-loss areas.

The scheme also focuses on skill development and capacity building, including training personnel and running consumer awareness programs. With a sanctioned cost of Rs 2,526.17 crore for loss reduction and prepaid smart metering components, the RDSS aims to create a sustainable and efficient power supply system in Uttarakhand.

State government to give 50% electricity subsidy

The Pushkar Singh Dhami-led government in Uttarakhand has prompted a project to furnish a 50% subsidy to consumers using less than 100 units of electricity per month. This scheme is anticipated to cost the state government Rs. 130 crore annually, and aims to benefit over 11 lakh power consumers.

Energy Secretary R Meenakshi Sundaram explained that the estimated expenditure is based on previous electricity bills, with Rs. 260 crore worth of electricity consumed by those using less than 100 units last year. Under the scheme, consumers using more than 100 units will have to pay the full amount.

The subsidy will also extend to consumers in the hilly areas of Uttarakhand, providing ease to users with a power load of up to 1 KW

The subsidy will also extend to consumers in the hilly areas of Uttarakhand, providing ease to users with a power load of up to 1 KW. This initiative, announced by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on his birthday, reflects the government's adherence to lessening the economic burden on low-consumption electricity users in the state.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Epic return: Ridley Scott (left) and Paul Mescal on the set of '*Gladiator II*.' AP

Battle resumes: Ridley Scott is back in the arena with '*Gladiator II*'

Age is just a number for the 86-year-old Ridley Scott as audiences get ready to get their consciousness singed with his 29th feature, *Gladiator II*, opening today; with a career spanning decades, Scott has delivered iconic films, cementing his place as a master of immersive storytelling

Mini Anthikad Chhibber

Ridley Scott's *Alien* (1979) was just his second feature film but what an impact it has had on the public consciousness. A haunted house movie in space, *Alien* with its beautifully unsettling visuals of the spaceship, Nostromo, the slow burn climaxing in the alien bursting out of Kane's (John Hurt) chest, and a thousand other details big and small, richly deserves its iconic status.

Though Scott, by his own admission, got into directing feature films late, at 40, at a time when his peers including Steven Spielberg, Brian De Palma, Francis Ford Coppola, and George Lucas had critically acclaimed and commercially successful films under their belt, Scott made up for lost time with a prodigious output.

Scott has had two releases in a year, three times – *Hannibal* and *Black Hawk Down* in 2001, *Alien: Covenant* and *All the Money in the World* in 2017, and most recently, *The Last Duel* and *House of Gucci* in 2021.

Alien was followed by another game-changer, *Blade Runner* (1982). Based on Philip K. Dick's meditative 1968 novel *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* the film starred Harrison Ford as Rick Deckard, a policeman hunting for rebellious 'replicants'. *Blade Runner* set the template and palate for neo-noir and steampunk. The dystopian, rain-drenched, futuristic, and decayed Los Angeles of 2019, with neon bright billboards and cars flying silently by, was as immersive as it was disquieting.

'Stealth feminist'

In 1991 came *Thelma & Louise*, cementing Scott's reputation as a "stealth feminist", in the words of *Los Angeles Times* film editor Joshua Rothkopf. The film about two friends Thelma and Louise, played by Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis, taking a weekend road trip to escape their horrendously boring middle-class lives, ends in the very definition of a cliffhanger.

The historical epic *1492: Conquest of Paradise* (1992) about Columbus' journey to the New World starring Gérard Depardieu, Armand Assante, and Sigourney Weaver could well have been a dry run for 2000's *Gladiator*. Based on Daniel P. Mannix's 1958 novel, *Those About to Die* (yes, like Roland Emmerich's execrable eponymous show) *Gladiator* told the story of an honest, upright general, Maximus (an Oscar-winning turn from Russell Crowe).

Wicked, incestuous, patricidal Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix) has Maximus' wife and eight-year-old son crucified and burnt while ordering Maximus' death. The Praetorian Guards are no match for the battle-hardened Maximus who escapes after killing his captors. He winds up with a gladiator trainer where his superior prowess makes him a crowd favourite. When Commodus, as emperor, announces 150 days of games to honour his father, Marcus Aurelius, Maximus comes to Rome to exact his vengeance on all who wronged him.

Gladiator has aged excellently and the battles and savagery continue to thrill to the bone. Scott went on to make significant films in different genres, including two prequels to *Alien – Prometheus* in 2012 and *Alien: Covenant*. Scott's ability to create immersive worlds whether it is the desolation of the red planet in *The Martian* (2015), war-torn Mogadishu in the kinetic *Black Hawk Down,* or Jerusalem during the crusades in the medieval epic *Kingdom of Heaven* (2005) is intoxicating, and addictive.

Scott is able to comfortably walk the line between gorgeously detailed worlds, high-octane action, and the people propelling the story. Amidst the blood, the dank corridors, and the relentless xenomorph, one does not lose sight of Ripley (a statuesque Sigourney Weaver) and her bravery, doubts, and fears.

Similarly, despite the blood lust of the Colosseum and the frenetic energy of the mob that is Rome (as Maximus is repeatedly told), Scott draws us into the stories of the characters. From the Numidian gladiator Juba (Djimon Hounsou) being stolen from his home to Commodus' sister, Lucilla's (Connie Nielsen), fears for her son, Lucius, and her love for Maximus, they keep the audience invested and engaged with larger vistas of blood and sand.

From the time it was released, there have been talks of a sequel to *Gladiator* including one featuring a resurrected Maximus. Thankfully, that was not followed up on and the brave general was allowed to enjoy the afterlife in peace.

Gladiator II, releasing today, tells the story of Lucius (Paul Mescal) who is revealed to be Maximus' son. Now that is a hair-raising twist, considering Maximus tells Lucilla, his son is the same age as Lucius. And all the time we thought Maximus was an honourable man.

In Gladiator II, Lucius is sent away from the corruption in Rome to grow up in Numidia. Wicked Romans come anyway, kill his wife, and enslave Lucius. He decides to become a gladiator like his father and challenge Rome.

Denzel Washington and Pedro Pascal also star – the former as Lucius' mentor and the latter as a general who served under Maximus. Scott returning to helm a sequel to one of his most critically and commercially successful films bodes well. The advance reviews are dizzy with praise for the blood-soaked action and the acting, particularly from Washington and Mescal. It is time for the games to begin. May the odds be ever in Scott's favour.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A nuclear fusion reaction can generate more energy than it consumes, but the technologies to harness it to generate electricity continue to stay out of reach

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Sustainable nuclear fusion requires the conditions in a fusion reactor to meet the _____ criterion. This stipulates that when a fusion reaction produces enough energy to trigger another reaction after including losses to the environment, the reactions will become self-sustaining.

QUESTION 2

Fusion reactions in the bellies of stars fuse hydrogen nuclei to produce helium nuclei, subatomic particles, and copious amounts of energy. Efforts to recreate this event in the lab prefer using a mix of X and Y as fuel because they fuse under less extreme conditions. Their fusion still creates helium nuclei. Name X and Y.

QUESTION 3

When trying to fuse any nuclei heavier than the nucleus of K, the fusion reaction will produce less energy than it consumes. In fact all nuclei lighter than K can fuse to produce more energy. Name K, an isotope.

QUESTION 4

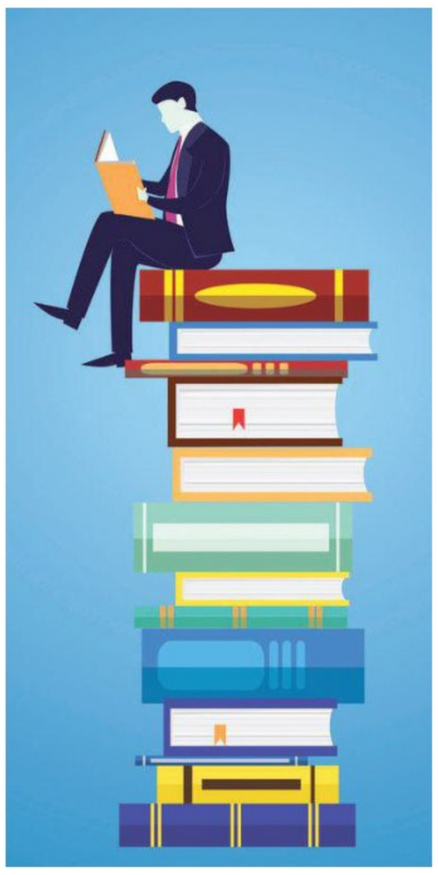
P is a form of fusion reaction that releases very little of its energy in the form of Q. P is desirable because it reduces the reactor maintenance cost and increases safety. But on the flip side, P requires even more extreme operating conditions. Name P and Q.

QUESTION 5

In a form of fusion called _____ _____, lasers blast a tiny container containing a pellet of hydrogen nuclei with energy. The container's explosion sends shockwaves through the pellet, compressing and then fusing the nuclei.

Visual Question:
This doughnut-shaped reactor design is used to support fusion reactions by confining a superhot plasma using powerful magnetic fields. Name it. RSWILCOX (CC BY-SA 4.0)

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Where and under what circumstances did Jawaharlal Nehru write *The Discovery of India*? **Ans: He wrote the book while imprisoned at Ahmednagar Fort from 1942–46. The book was written during his time in solitary confinement.**
2. In which Indian television series was *The Discovery of India* adapted, and who directed it? **Ans: *Bharat Ek Khoj* by Shyam Benegal**
3. Thirty letters that Nehru wrote to Indira Gandhi from prison were later published as a book. **Ans: *Letters from a Father to his Daughter***
4. What is the name of the newspaper Nehru started? **Ans: The National Herald**
5. How do we now know India's oldest student organisation? **Ans: The All India Students' Federation**
Visual: Identify the cartoonist. **Ans: Keshav Shankar Pillai**
Early Birds: Tito Shiladitya | C. Saravanan | Tamal Biswas | Sonali Das | Tuyyab Malik



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian Upendran

"...What's the meaning of 'affluenza'?"

" 'Affluenza' is not something that you and I are ever likely to suffer from."

"Is it a disease?"

"Kind of. It is something that affects affluent people, people who are rich. It is a psychological, not a physical disorder. It attacks children of rich parents. The British Medical Journal for August 1, 1987 defined 'affluenza' as 'the virus of inherited wealth, striking young people with guilt, boredom, lack of motivation, and delayed emotional development.' The disease is not new but the word is! The word which was coided in the Eighties is too lethargic to enter the dictionary! 'Affluenza' is a combination of 'affluence' and 'influenza'."

"By the way. what is the meaning of the word 'basically'? I find a lot of people using it these days in all kinds of contexts."

"The original meaning of 'basically' is 'essentially.' 'fundamentally.'

Raju is interested in a variety of things. But he is basically a scientist.

It is used these days to mean 'actually.' But in spoken English, it is used as a filler these days."

"What is a filler?"

"A filler is a word or sound we use to fill a pause in our conversation. It gives us time to think of the next appropriate word. A writer said that a filler is used by speakers 'who temporarily lose their fluency.' Some of the fillers are 'actually,' 'you know.' 'uh,' um'. 'well.' 'Actually' was the widely used filler in the past. Now 'actually' has yielded to 'basically.' In TV and radio interviews, 'basically' is frequently used. Usage writers object to the use of 'basically' as a filler."

"So 'basically,' 'basically' is used as a filler these days?"

"Yes. It is generally used to modify a sentence."

"Incidentally, what is the meaning of 'first off?"

"It is a colloquial expression used by Americans. It means 'at first, first of all.'

First off, let me introduce my friend here.

The 'all' of 'first of all' has been omitted and 'of has become 'off."

"I don't like 'first off.' It is 'ugsome'."

" 'Ugsome'? What is it? I haven't come across the word. What does it mean?"

"It means 'horrible, loathsome.' It is from 'ugly.' You find it in a couple of dictionaries."

Published in The Hindu on January 25, 1994

Word of the day

Calumny:
a false accusation of an offence or a malicious misrepresentation of someone's words or actions

Synonyms: lie, defamation, malice

Usage:
He was subjected to the most vicious calumny.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/calumnypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kæləmni/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Police hold awareness programme for taxi drivers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police initiative follows complaints against cab drivers for demanding excess fare, harassing passengers, and taking detours.

Following a few reported cases of harassment, the north-east division police on Thursday held an awareness programme to educate taxi drivers and raise awareness about passengers' safety and rules.

Sajith V.J., Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), north-east division, addressed the meeting, which was attended by over 100 drivers and members of the airport taxi drivers' association, RTO, traffic, and airport officials.

There have been complaints of cab drivers demanding excess fare, harassing passengers, and taking detours to avoid the toll. As per the rule, the cabs that do not pass through tolls should reduce ₹200, which is included in the fixed taxi fares. However, the drivers not only avoid the toll but also collect it from the passengers, the officer said.

Some cab drivers have been targeting airport passengers, particularly women travelling alone. The drivers sometimes stop midway, claim fuel issues, and demand cash, said the officer. They may also threaten to cancel the ride if the passenger refuses and asks them to get down midway. The police were trying to avoid such situations and also end verbal altercations and harassment complaints.

The association, on the other hand, also raised concerns that many a time, due to misunderstanding, passengers behave violently and rudely, and they end up accusing the drivers of fleecing money.

The police said that all violations would be strictly dealt with.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my Client **Sri.V.M.Chand Pasha**, Aged about 64 years, S/o Late V.M.Abdul Reham, has lost the Document No. BTM-1-03480-2013-14, Book I, CD No. BTMD58, Dated 03/12/2013, office of Sub-registrar, Jayanagara (BTM Layout), Bengaluru and BTM-1-03470-2013-14, CD No. BTMD58, Dated 02/12/2013, office of Sub-registrar, Jayanagara (BTM Layout), Bengaluru, which was executed by **Sri. H.V.Ramachandra Reddy S/o Late Venkataramana Reddy** represented by his GPA holder Sri. G.N.Venkatesh S/o Sri. Narasimha Reddy and I have lodged a complaint in that regard in Madiwala Police Station, Bengaluru 560068 on dated 13/11/2024, Lost Report No. 1333345/2024. If anybody finds the said original rectification Deeds, please deliver it to Madiwala Layout Police Station or to below mentioned address.

If any person/s or Institution, Authority etc., have got any objections or claiming any right, title and interest of what so ever nature on the Schedule Property, are hereby required to communicate the same along with supporting documents to me at my Office within **(7) Seven days** from this day. Otherwise, the Sale transaction will be completed without any reference or regard to any such purported claim or interest, which shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents and purposes.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No.18 and 19,** VP Katha No.100/1, Situated at **Hongansandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore** South Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring **East to West 30 Feet and North to South 96 Feet, in total measuring about 2880 Sq Feet** and bounded on:

East by : Site No. 16&17
West by : Site No.20 and 21
North by : Road
South by : Private Sites

Address for Service:-
Shree Advocates and Associates
No. 16, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, A Cross, Chinamma Layout, Madiwala, Bengaluru 560068.
Phone No. 08040989046, 9663864500

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (West), No.98, 8th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560003.

No: SADH(W)/TENDER/05/2024-25 **Date: 14-11-2024**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)

(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (West), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person / Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for Maintenance of Parks.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Beautification, Landscape Development and Water Facilities Works in Govindarajanagara Constituency Parks. **(Others) - Tender Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,25,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 19-11-2024. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting will be held **on 25-11-2024 at 11.00 AM. 3)** Last Date for Closing of Tender: **28-11-2024 at 4.30 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **29-11-2024 at 11.30 AM. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Approval of Technical Bid.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture
West Zone, BBMP.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: KPTCL/B16/44953/2023-24 **Date: 14.11.2024**

CAUTION NOTICE REGARDING UNSCRUPULOUS PERSONS OFFERING JOBS IN KPTCL AND ESCOMS

This is to notify to the public that certain unscrupulous persons are fraudulently offering jobs by distributing fake appointment letters, selection lists and SMS messages, for monetary gains, in connection to the recent recruitment drives being conducted to various posts in KPTCL and ESCOMs. We wish to caution the public that KPTCL and ESCOMs bear no responsibility for amounts being paid by prospective job aspirants to these unscrupulous persons in response to false job assurances.

It is likely that the communications from these unscrupulous persons may carry the email address or letterhead or rubber stamp or messages to make it look authentic from KPTCL and ESCOMs. The public in general are advised not to fall prey to such fraudulent activities and be vigilant of such fraudulent job offer letters, postings, e-mails, SMS and telephone calls and not respond to such SMS/calls/emails or share any personal information. Please note that any offers/benefits/content/instructions presented in such misleading communication impersonating KPTCL and ESCOMs, do not represent those of the company.

It may be noted that KPTCL and ESCOMs follow a transparent recruitment process through its own HR department and keep the prospective job aspirants informed and updated through its official websites **(https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in, https://bescom.karnataka.gov.in, https://cescmysore.karnataka.gov.in, https://mescom.karnataka.gov.in, https://hescom.karnataka.gov.in, https://gescom.karnataka.gov.in)** and news-paper notifications.

By way of this caution notice, we wish to advise all prospective job aspirants to exercise caution and not to be misled by such false job assurances. KPTCL and ESCOMs are not responsible in any way for any loss and/or damage caused by the action of such unscrupulous persons.

Sd/- **Director (Admn. & HR),**
KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru – 560 009.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-08/531/2024-25 **Date: 14.11.2024**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB invites tenders from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned below:-

Name of the works : 1) Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) Including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan, Design, Preparation of Estimates, Cost Structure etc., for the proposed Shivarapatna Industrial Area at Malur Taluk of Kolar District. (Extent 1637.50 A). **2)** Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) Including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan, Design, Preparation of Estimates, Cost Structure etc., for the proposed Jangamakote Industrial Area at Sidlaghatta Taluk of Chikkaballapura District. (Extent 2823.12 A). **3)** Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) Including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan, Design, Preparation of Estimates, Cost Structure etc., for the proposed Devanahalli General Industrial Area (ITIR), Phase-2, Doddballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. (Extent 1118.50 A).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **28.11.2024** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/3225/Zen/2024-25 **Chief Engineer-1, KIADB, Bengaluru**

‘Allot vacant govt. quota seats in pvt. engineering colleges through KEA’

Authority makes the suggestion to govt. to prevent colleges from converting vacant govt. quota seats into management seats

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To curb the engineering seat blocking racket, found to be active during the 2023 and 2024 CET counselling, the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) has now requested the State government to ensure that all vacant government quota seats after the second extended round in private engineering colleges are allotted through KEA only.

KEA has now requested the State government to include this clause in the consensual agreement with private engineering colleges from next year. It has also proposed that COMED-K counselling should begin only after the first round of KEA counselling.

Presently, these seats are being handed over to these colleges and managements charge hefty fees to allot these seats. If these vacant seats are also allotted through KEA, the incentive for blocking seats in counselling will be removed from the system.

A file photo of a CET counselling session in Bengaluru.

‘Students getting cheated’

“As per the Supreme Court verdict, even if only one seat remains vacant in NEET counselling, it has to be filled through KEA only. But these vacant seats are handed over to engineering colleges. However, it has been found that some colleges are cheating students and converting government quota seats into management seats by running a seat blocking scam. To prevent this, we have now recommended that the NEET procedure be adopted to engineering seat allotment as well,” said H. Prasanna, Executive Director, KEA.

Of the students who got government quota seats in the second extended round of CET-2024 counselling, 2,625 of them have not been admitted to the preferred college. Consequently, other eligible and interested students are deprived of their seats. KEA issued notices to all these students. While many had explanations like securing a medical seat, a seat outside the State.

However, several students complained to KEA that they had not even done option entry, as they joined other courses in other states, which triggered a probe. Fifty-four of these students were found to have been allotted seats in the BMS Engineering College (Aided and Unaided), Akash Institute of Engineering & Technology and New Horizon College of Engineering.

KEA has now filed a complaint over misuse of their Login ID and passwords, after it was found that only a few IP addresses were used for option entry of these students misusing their credentials. An FIR has been registered, and a probe is on.

Police save cab driver from jumping off flyover

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A cab driver who attempted to jump off from the busy Richmond Road flyover was saved in the nick of time by the Ashok Nagar traffic police.

Sub-Inspector Harish Kumar B.M. and head constable Lokesh D.G. were posted at the junction when they heard a commotion on the flyover around 6.45 a.m. The police noticed a mobile phone falling from the flyover and the woman crying out for help while holding a man to stop him from jumping.

Sensing trouble, Lokesh rushed onto the flyover on his bike with the siren on in the one-way direction and managed to pin down the man. Meanwhile, Harish Kumar joined him, and the duo called the Hoysala patrolling vehicle and sent the rescued man to Ashok Nagar police station for an inquiry.

Police inquiry revealed that the man, Venkataraju, was travelling in a car with his wife and brother-in-law. Due to the peak hour traffic, vehicles were moving slowly. The couple had an argument, and in the ensuing squabble, he got out of the car and went to the edge of the flyover while his wife struggled to stop him. Passers-by thought of him as a thief stealing the mobile phone and trying to flee from the spot.

Venkataraju was upset after the demise of his grandmother and was admitted to NIMHANS.

After two days of treatment, he was discharged and the incident occurred when he was returning home.

“We were able to save him in the nick of time. We initially thought he was a mobile thief trying to escape. But when we rushed to the spot, we found that it was a couple’s fight and pinned the man down before he jumped off the flyover“, Harish Kumar told *The Hindu*. The police counselled Venkataraju and his family members, and they let him go.

(Those who are in distress or having suicidal tendencies can seek help from Arogya Sahayavani at 104)

Centre of Excellence in AI to come up in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

For boosting Karnataka’s tech ecosystem, the State Cabinet on Thursday approved the establishment of a Center of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence with an investment of ₹28 crore. The Department of IT/BT will set up the centre in Bengaluru.

The Cabinet also cleared a comprehensive policy for Global Capability Centers aimed at positioning Karnataka as the preferred destination for multinational companies to set up their operations, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said.

In another decision, the Cabinet has agreed to release ₹20 crore for setting up an organic and millet hub at Hebbal in Bengaluru for promoting organic farming and trade under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana of the Centre. The State and the Centre will contribute ₹8 crore and ₹12 crore, respectively.

Krishi Mela highlights cutting-edge digital farming

Malvika Mishra
Anil Bani
BENGALURU

This year’s Krishi Mela, themed “Climate Smart Digital Farming”, was inaugurated on Thursday at the GKVK, University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore (UAS-B). The event showcased cutting-edge technology aimed at transforming traditional farming practices.

With over 700 stalls, the mela featured a range of advanced agricultural tools, including AI-operated sprinklers, app-controlled solar equipment, and multi-spectral drones designed for yield monitoring. Robotics technologies, such as boom sprayers and automated bird scarers, captured the attention of visiting farmers.

One of the highlights was ‘Nero,’ a technology developed by Bengaluru-based company Fyllo. This device, equipped with in-built sensors, provides real-time alerts on soil quality, temperature, and other environmental factors. “It has a one-km range and uses a simple traffic signal system on its app – red indicates danger, orange signals caution, and green means all is well,” said Jayaram C.S., an entomologist with the company. Nero is particularly useful for maintaining crops like pomegranates, grapes, papayas, and carnations.

Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy at the Krishi Mela in Bengaluru on Thursday; (right) a woman with a pair of oxen.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT & PTI

Another innovation came from Mewin Technology, which demonstrated an app enabling farmers to control motors and pumps remotely. “The app has a robust range, eliminating the need for farmers to be physically present to operate pumps. It also monitors pump pressure,” said Vivek, a company representative.

Farmers attending the event shared how these technological advancements have improved their yields. Anand, a farmer from Mandya, said, “I’ve been coming to Krishi Mela for ten years. The demonstrations here have helped me adopt new technologies like hybrid seeds and sprinklers, which have significantly boosted my farm’s productivity.”

However, not all feedback was positive. Some farmers raised concerns about the high cost of these innovations. Rajesh, a farmer from Basaralu village in Mandya district, remarked, “I’ve been attending since the first Mela. The technology is impressive, but it’s often too expensive for small-scale farmers like us. What’s the use if we can’t afford it?”

Agricultural Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy stressed the importance of integrating modern technology for sustainable and profitable farming. He highlighted the government’s initiatives to support farmers, noting that there are over 78 lakh farmers and 125 lakh agricultural labourers in Karnataka.

“Agriculture has been the State government’s top priority. Last year, the government distributed machinery and irrigation equipment worth around ₹1,000 crore with subsidies. Additionally, it provided ₹2,100 crore in direct cash transfers to farmers as crop insurance. The government implemented a Hi-Tech Harvester Hub scheme to provide large harvesting machines with substantial financial assistance,” he said.

IndiGo announces daily direct flights between Bengaluru-Langkawi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The service will start on December 16

IndiGo has announced that it will operate daily direct flights between Bengaluru and Langkawi, an archipelago in Malaysia, starting December 16.

Langkawi will be the airline’s 36th international destination and 124th overall destination to join its network.

The airline said the new exclusive route will expand IndiGo’s global network and cater to the growing number of tourists from India to Malaysia.

14 weekly flights

Vinay Malhotra, head of global sales, IndiGo, said, “We are delighted to further expand our network into Malaysia. And Langkawi will be our second destination in Malaysia after Kuala Lumpur. With the inclusion of these flights, Indigo will operate 14 weekly flights to Malaysia from two cities in India.”

Langkawi is one of the most popular destinations in Malaysia, with its pristine beaches and lush rainforests, and the country’s recent visa waiver for Indian citizens is bound to create greater demand. IndiGo remains committed to delivering an affordable, timely, courteous, and hassle-free travel experience across our expansive network, he said.

The airline also announced that it will start daily direct operations between Bengaluru and Puducherry from December 20.

Dassault Systemes and RTBI sign MoU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dassault Systemes Americas Corporation (DSAC), Waltham, Massachusetts, USA and Ramaiah Technology Business Incubator (RTBI) on Wednesday announced a progression towards the acceleration of the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem to achieve international reckoning and global research.

DSAC and RTBI signed an MoU to explore avenues strengthening cooperation and aspirations pertaining to startups, innovation, skill development, research and development.

Canara Bank holds expo

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 42 prominent builders and 12 car dealerships showcased their latest property and automotive offerings at the two-day retail expo organised by the Canara Bank on November 13 and 14 at Manyata Tech Park in Bengaluru.

50 children to get free lifelong access to drug for SMA treatment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Fifty children, who have been diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), will receive free lifelong access to Risdiplam, an oral treatment for SMA, thanks to Care and Protection of Children Trust (CPCT), an NGO aiming to support people with rare diseases.

The CPCT has signed an agreement with Roche Pharma India to procure Risdiplam, the first and only drug approved by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for the treatment of SMA. Under the Free Medicine Access Programme (F-Map), children will receive continuous care and access to treatment at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Bengaluru, where a Centre of Excellence for Rare Diseases was established by the Karnataka government.

Children up to 16 years

Children up to the age of 16 can avail the assistance. SMA is a rare genetic disorder that severely impacts muscle strength and motor functions, often leading to life-threatening complications, if untreated.

Minister Gundu Rao expressed hope that the programme would give the children a fair and solid chance to battle a debilitating condition like SMA and pave the way for a brighter future.

“We are sure that with the free drug support of Risdiplam, a disease-modifying therapy which can be administered orally in the comfort of one’s home, these children will benefit immensely. We hope that this partnership in the State will serve as a role model to scale the programme in other States too,” said Lakshmi Kanthan, chairman, CPC Trust. F-Map has been curated by CPCT through funding received under CSR for the treatment of rare conditions.

Minister Sharanprakash Patil said: “This is a first-of-its-kind financial assistance programme in the country. We are delighted that SMA patients in Karnataka will stand to benefit.”

Japan to give 5 trillion yen as investment and loan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Japanese government will pump in 5 trillion yen as investments and loans to India in the next five years, said Nakane Tsutomu, Consul General of Japan.

He was speaking at the second edition of the India-Japan Business Summit (IJBS) in Bengaluru on Thursday.

India and Japan were important partners who mutually benefitted from each other over the last 10 years, he said.

Gunjan Krishna, Commissioner for Industrial Development & Director of Industries & Commerce, said, “There was an influx of Japanese companies. We are running out of space and are planning to create another Japanese industrial park in Vasanthanarasapura on the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.‘

She invited Japanese companies to participate in the Global Investors Meet - 2025.

It will be held between February 12 and 14.

Efforts on to revive Bangalore Book Festival

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Book Festival (BBF), once a marquee event in the city’s calendar, was last held in 2019. Then the pandemic happened. Despite multiple attempts since then, the festival has not made a return. Now, efforts are under way to bring BBF back in 2025.

In the five-year gap since BBF’s last edition, several new book festivals have emerged in Bengaluru, primarily organised by private entities. Among these is the latest addition, Pustaka Sante, hosted by Kannada publisher Veeraloka Prakashana. The event will take place from November 15 to 17 at Shalini Grounds, Jayanagar.

“The event is organised and funded by me, driven by my passion for promoting the Kannada language,” said Veerakaputra M. Srinivas, industrialist and publisher. “Earlier this year, I held a similar exhibition at HSR Layout.”

A.N. Ramachandran, president of the Bangalore Booksellers and Publishers Association, which organised BBF for 14 editions until 2019, highlighted the hurdles in reviving the fest. “The main challenge is funding and support. While many industries have recovered post-pandemic, book sales remain sluggish. We struggle to secure sponsorship or government funding.”

One of the main challenges to reviving the Bangalore Book Festival is funding and support. FILE PHOTO

He said book festivals in cities like Chennai and Delhi receive State government backing, which helps sustain them. “In the current economic climate, small booksellers and publishers cannot afford the high stall fees needed to make the festival self-sustaining,” he added. However, Mr. Ramachandran said efforts are on to revive BBF.

Meanwhile, a newly formed group, the Karnataka Booksellers and Publishers Association, is also planning a book festival for Bengaluru, with an emphasis on Kannada literature.

“One of the issues with BBF was its heavy focus on English books, which led to limited interest from the State government. Festivals like the Chennai Book Fair prioritise regional language books, which attract significant footfall,” said Guruprasad D.N., a member of the association.

We plan to hold a book festival, with focus on Kannada books, but not letting go of English books either,” he said.

BBMP approves over 1,000 building plans under Trust and Verify System

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has approved 1,067 building plans under the Trust and Verify System till November 12. This online approval system is applicable to sites measuring up to 50/80 and up to four residential units.

The owners and building constructors have to apply for a sanction plan online through empanelled civil engineers and architects in the city. The new system has eliminated the manual process for plan sanction approval, thus reducing corruption.

According to data provided by BBMP, the town planning department received 1,933 applications online, of which 1,067 have been cleared. About 519 files were sent back for clarification.

The highest number of applications, 796, were received from R.R. Nagar zone and the lowest, 53, from Dasarahalli. BBMP has urged owners to apply online for ease of business.

ISF announces prize winners for 2024, two women among six

Foundation decides to honour researchers under 40, emphasising the need for early recognition of exceptional talent

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Arun Chandrasekhar

Mahmood Kooria

Neena Gupta

Siddesh Kamat

Vedika Khemani

Shyam Gollakota

The Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) announced the winners of the Infosys Prize 2024 in six categories – Economics, Engineering and Computer Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, and Physical Sciences.

The Infosys Prize honours the accomplishments of individuals whose research and scholarship significantly impact India.

The prize for each category comprises a gold medal, a citation, and a purse of $100,000 (or its equivalent in rupees).

The laureates of Infosys Prize 2024 were selected by an international panel of jurors comprising renowned scholars and experts.

Over the past 15 years, ISF has recognised groundbreaking research that has influenced various aspects of human life.

In 2024, the ISF decided to honour researchers under 40, emphasising the need for early recognition of exceptional talent.

Kris Gopalakrishnan, president, Infosys Science Foundation, said, "The Infosys Prize has played a pivotal role in recognising brilliant minds whose contributions are shaping the future of research and science. This year, we refocused to reward early career researchers under the age of 40, recognising their immense potential and the promise of paradigm-changing work."

The winners of the Infosys Prize 2024 in the six categories are:

In Economics the prize is awarded to Arun Chandrasekhar, Professor, Department of Economics, Stanford University, for his contribution to the study of social and economic networks, using innovative data sets and drawing on theoretical methods from machine learning and computer science.

The prize in Engineering and Computer Science is awarded to Shyam Gollakota, Professor, School of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Washington for his impactful research and technology translation spanning multiple engineering domains in societally relevant areas, such as smartphone-based affordable healthcare tools for low- and middle-income countries, battery-free computing and communication, and augmentation of human auditory sensing with artificial intelligence.

The Infosys prize in Humanities and Social Sciences is awarded to Mahmood Kooria, lecturer, School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, for his outstanding and seminal contributions to the study of maritime Islam in a global perspective, with particular focus on Kerala in the pre-modern and early modern eras. The Life Sciences prize is awarded to Siddhesh Kamat, Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, for his discoveries concerning bioactive lipids and their receptors, and their metabolic and signaling pathways.

The prize in Mathematical Sciences is awarded to Neena Gupta, Professor in the Theoretical Statistics and Mathematics Unit at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, for her work on the Zariski Cancellation Problem, a fundamental problem in algebraic geometry first posed in 1949 by Oscar Zariski, one of the founders of modern algebraic geometry.

The Physical Sciences prize is awarded to Vedika Khemani, Associate Professor in the Physics Department at Stanford University, who has made wide-ranging and groundbreaking contributions to theoretical and experimental non-equilibrium quantum matter, most notably the discovery of time-crystals.

Wine merchants call for bandh on Nov. 20

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Federation of Wine Merchants' Association has called for a State-wide bandh of all wine stores on November 20 over alleged widespread corruption and has put forth several demands to be met.

The federation's letter to the Chief Minister alleging widespread corruption in the Excise Department has made national headlines after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing the letter, said, "₹700 crore was collected by the Congress in Karnataka and sent to Maharashtra".

However, at a press conference where they announced the bandh, B. Govindaraj Hegde, the federation's general secretary, said they were surprised that their statements were being given a political twist. Mr. Hegde said while corruption had been part and parcel of the trade for many years now, it had attained intolerable levels in the last year or so.

One of the main demands by the federation is that Mr. Siddaramaiah should take over the Excise Department as well, as the department does not have any grants.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka State Tourism Hotel Owners' Association (KSTHOA), which runs hotels with lodging, boarding and liquor services under CL - 7 liquor licences, announced that they would not be supporting the State-wide bandh of wine stores.

Search committee constituted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, has constituted a search committee to select chair professor for the Kannada language chair.

The Kannada language chair has been lying vacant for over a year and a half now, and the academic activities have come to a standstill. Purushottama Bilimale, chairman, Kannada Development Authority (KDA) and former head of the chair at JNU, had written to the chancellor of JNU, requesting the immediate appointment of the head.

The Hindu had reported the same on July 6, 2024.

India's youth held back for 1,000 years by invasions, colonial rule: NRN

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Infosys founder N.R. Narayana Murthy said on Thursday that the Indian youth were held back in their adventures in science, mathematics, and engineering, among others, for a period of about 1,000 years, "by the multiple invasions of our country by tribal leaders from Afghanistan and Uzbekistan during the period 700 AD to 1520 AD and the later arrival of the British colonisers."

Mr. Murthy, delivering a lecture virtually at the announcement of the Infosys Science Prizes 2024, said, "History tells that India was a leading nation leveraging the power of ideas in mathematics, astronomy, engineering, medicine and surgery from the Vedic times till the multiple invasions..."

"History also tells us that the rulers from Afghanistan and Uzbekistan did not have much appreciation for science, medicine and mathematics. The British conquerors sporadically encouraged our desire to do aspirational and imaginative work in mathematics, astronomy, engineering, medicine and surgery, but our progress was slow," Mr. Murthy said.

N.R. Narayana Murthy.
K. MURALI KUMAR

He added that, thus the Indian youth were held back in their adventures in science, mathematics, engineering and medicine, power of observation of nature, curiosity, inferencing, critical and analytical thinking, invention and innovation, and problem definition and problem solving between 1000 AD and 1947 AD, a period of about one thousand years.

Revival post-1947

The Infosys founder said the plan to revive the power of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to solve the problems of our nation started after we obtained Independence 77 years ago in 1947.

"Naturally, this task has remained a tough challenge. The Indian youth working in India have worked hard and smart to progress to the level of producing and using products, for our own benefit, from the inventions originating in the developed world. This is laudable. But sound, enduring and quick scientific and technological progress requires us to go beyond just this capability and to invent stunning solutions to our unique problems," he said.

"First, there is so much wealth in India. Many of us spend large sums of money on charity, education and healthcare. We can contribute a part of our money on research and solve these problems. Second, investment in R&D by the Indian industry is inadequate. Somehow, Indian companies do not think of breakthroughs in world-class products and creating inventive ideas as part of their strategy. I hope this too will happen in the course of time," he said.

Revamping of Church Street launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

UnboxingBLR Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to enhancing Bengaluru's cultural and urban landscape, has launched a project to revamp the Church Street in collaboration with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The project, which has been taken up under the "Namma Bengaluru, Namma Koduge" (Our Bengaluru, Our Contribution) initiative, aims to beautify and give infrastructural overhaul of the Church Street. It will address road and footpath repairs, upgrade streetlights, improve garbage disposal and drainage, and add ornamental greenery. UnboxingBLR will also maintain these interventions on Church Street for the next two years, as part of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the BBMP.

Under the MoU, Church Street is the first of three streets adopted by UnboxingBLR. Richmond Road and Vittal Mallya road are next in line for similar interventions.

BBMP Commissioner Tushar Girinath said that UnboxingBLR's commitment to Church Street showcases the potential of public-private partnerships in improving Bengaluru. "We are pleased to see them take the lead in transforming this iconic street into a space that embodies the spirit of our city. ," he said.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, NOV. 15	
RISE	06:18 SET 17:50
RISE	17:18 SET 05:27
SATURDAY, NOV. 16	
RISE	06:19 SET 17:50
RISE	18:13 SET 06:31
SUNDAY, NOV. 17	
RISE	06:19 SET 17:50
RISE	19:13 SET 07:37

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	29	21
Bengaluru	25	21

Bengaluru Today
25°C Day will be pleasant. Few spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
26°C The weather will be comfortable. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE
U/MD/34/Washing Linen/2024-27/ IREPS TN Dt. 12-11-2024
Chief Medical Superintendent, Divisional Railway Hospital, Solapur invites Tender for and on behalf of President of India for execution of under mentioned work from experienced contractors. **Name of Work:** Washing of linen for Divisional Railway Hospital, Solapur. **Tender Notice No.:** U/MD/34/Washing Linen/2024-27/IREPS TN dated **12-11-2024. Approximate Cost of work:** Rs. 4,35,986.30 (Rs Four Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Six and Thirty paisa only) including GST and all taxes for 3 years. **Earnest Money Deposit:** Rs 8800/- (Rs Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Only) (Refundable) for Earnest Money Deposit can be made through e-payment gateway through the online website www.ireps.gov.in. **Tender Document available:** Tender document shall be notified through website www.ireps.gov.in. Tendering agency must possess digital token approved by IREPS. **Last date & time of Submission of tender and Tender opening of time and date: 11-12-2024 (Up to 10.00 Hrs)** online through the web portal www.ireps.gov.in only **Validity of offer of Tender:** 60 days from the last date of submission of tender. **Stipulated date of Commencement of work:** Within 15 days from the date of issue of "Letter of Acceptance" or as per the instructions of CMS Solapur. **Authority and place for submission of tender cost & EMD, required documents (if any) and seeking clarifications on tender documents:** Online through e-payment gateway of the web portal www.ireps.gov.in only
Addl. Chief Medical Superintendent
Solapur
Apex-046
अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. CPMGSU-2024-05
Dated : 08-11-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of thePresident of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Feasibility survey for shifting of Existing Railway alignment /under ground construction between Km.8/147 to 12/576 near Airport on Mysuru-Chamarajanagar Section.	Rs. 21,99,184.40

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 30-11-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Project Manager/GSU
Mysuru
PUB/570/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public are hereby informed that, our client has lost the original Sale deed dated 17-06-1974, document No. 1634/1974-75, in respect of the property bearing **Site No.1017, Rajajinagar 2nd stage, Bangalore,** while travelling from Majestic to Kasturba Road. Our client had lodged an online police complaint on 14-11-2024, lost report No.1334705/2024. If anybody found the said document please contact this Nos. **9844155041 and 9481590899.**
V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No. 23, "Venkatadri" 6th Main,
5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-560027.
Ph : 080-22223949, 9844155041.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to notify/inform that our client is/are intending to purchase the property bearing BBMP No. 17, Old No. 14, Previous old No. 83/3, PID No. 60-81-17, Situated at **K V Layout, Byrasandra, BBMP Ward No. 60/169, Jayanagara, Bengaluru – 560011, Karnataka,** Bharat, Measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, in all **1200 SQFT** with RCC Building constructed there on consisting of Ground, First and Second Floors.
Any person/s having any valid objection/s may kindly contact us along with all relevant valid documents within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, it will be presumed that the property is free from all kind of encumbrance/s, claim/s or lien and our client will proceed to complete the sale transaction and no objection/s or claim/s of any kind will be entertained thereafter.
Raghavendra Sanjeevarao
M/s. Law Nest,
Advocates & Solicitors,
No.50/1, Aditya,1st Floor,
4th Cross, Link Road,
Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560003.
Email: raghavendra@lawnest.in

LXXXVI ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS COURT
IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE
COM. O.S. NO.502/2024
Between:
The Jammu And Kashmir Bank Limited, A Banking Company Registered under the Jammu And Kashmir Companies Act, 1977 (Samvat), Branch Office at First Floor 8th Edifice CMH Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore-32
Represented by its Manager, and GPA Holder **Mr. Nissar Ahmad Zargar, S/o. Mr. Ghulam Rasool Zargar** aged about 55 years, Senior Executive, Code No.9601, R/o: 103, Usmanabad, Near Masjid Usman, Umerhair Buchpora Srinagar Presently residing at Regency Magnum Apartments, Hennur Main Road, Bangalore-45. Telephone No.08025585740 Mobile No.7006568745
E-mail ID: Nissar.zargar@jkbmail.com inbang@jkbmail.com .... **Plaintiff**
And
1. Mr. Sudhakar Shetty K,
S/o. Mr. Janardhan Shetty K,
Aged about 52 years,
2. Mr. K. Latha Shetty,
W/o. Mr. Sudhakar Shetty K,
Aged about 48 years, Both are Residing at No.69/70, Aai Matha Temple Road, Arvind Nagar Lingarapuram, Bangalore-560084.
Also at: Both are Residing at No.53, Doddappana Halli, Kannamangala Palya Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural Dist-562110.
3. Mr. Mohammad Asif
S/o Mr. Pavoor Umer,
Aged about 50 years Residing at No.3, Silver Oak Apartment, GF 001, Vivekananda Nagar, 2nd Cross, Maruthi Seva Nagar, Bangalore- 560033.
Also at : Residing at No.69 /70, KSFC Layout, Arvind Nagar, Lingarapuram, Bangalore-560084. .... **Defendants**
SUMMON/NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT NO. 1 TO 3
Whereas the plaintiff above named have preferred a suit for recovery against the defendant **Rs.16,79,947.60 (Rupees Sixteen lakhs Seventy Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Seven and paise Sixty Only)** and for other relief/ s and you are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble court either in hereby person or through the pleader on the **02.12.2024 at 11 ' O Clock** to answer the same, failing which the said suit will be disposed off ex-parte given under my hand and seal of the court this **12.11.2024**
By Order of the Court
Sd/- Sheristadar,
City Civil Court at Bengaluru
Sd/- S.B. Abdur Rahman, Advocate Office at No.60, 1st Floor, M.M. Complex-I, Opp. Modi Masjid, Chick Bazaar Road, Tasker Town, Bangalore-560051.

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THE HINDU

CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute
Post Box No. 436, Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow-226001
www.nbri.res.in
No.: 3-2/2(Gr. IV)/2020-R&A **Dated: 01.11.2024**
Notice
It is hereby informed that due to unavoidable administrative reasons, the previously issued Advertisement No. 02/2020 for the recruitment of Scientific posts in the Institute, stands cancelled with immediate effect.
Controller of Administration

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
No.8, "Samparka Soudha", Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. Telefax : 080-22024000
e-mail : mdkrdcl@gmail.com, cekrdcl@gmail.com Website: http://www.krdcl.in
No. KRDCL/IFB/2024-25/14 Dated: 14-11-2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (through KPP Portal)
Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) invites tender from agencies having experience in respect of following works as per the requirement of Bengaluru City Traffic Police on item rate tender basis in two cover system as detailed below :
Name of the Work: Providing Maintenance Services to existing 339 Nos. Traffic Signal lights and Network connectivity to TMC in Bengaluru City under Bengaluru City Road Safety and Traffic Management Project to Bengaluru City Traffic Police Division for a period of one year, bearing tender number: **KRDCL/2024-25/SE0052/CALL-2.** Amount put to tender (Excluding GST @18%) (in Rs.) : **3,34,27,411/-.** Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)**: 5,01,450/-.** Period of Services : **One Year.**
Interested applicants may download bidding documents from the e-Procurement Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and submit the bids and EMD (electronically) through KPP Portal only.
The Calendar of events for various activities is as follows: (1) The last date and time for submission of queries is : **21.11.2024 upto 17.30 Hrs.** The applicants may submit their queries through electronic mail: **cekrdcl@gmail.com (2)** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **22.11.2024 at 11.30 Hrs.** in the **Office of the Joint Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City Police, No. 5, Traffic Management Centre, 2nd Floor, Infantry Road, Bengaluru-560001. (3)** The last date and time for submission of bids is **28.11.2024 upto 17.30 Hrs. (4)** Date and time of opening of Technical bids is : **30.11.2024 at 11.00 Hrs.**
*Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and further changes will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement portal website.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer
DIPR/CP/YC/3223/2024-25 **KRDCL, Bengaluru**

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, MARIA D Souza W/o Late. Lawrence D Souza, R/a No.29, KNO 41/29 1st Floor Anjanadri Layout Kattigenahalli Yelahanka Bangalore-560064, hereby state that my name has been wrongly mentioned as M.R. D Souza in my pension payment record but my correct name is Maria D Souza vide affidavit dt: 14.11.2024 sworn before Notary S.R.Ravikumar, B'luru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NISHA Puran Choudhary, D/o. Radha Kishan Solanki, residing at #55/1, Saraswathi Layout, Battarahalli, Near New Indus Valley School, Virgonagar, Bengaluru 560049, have changed my name to Nisha Solanki vide affidavit dated: 11/11/2024, sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMBU Selva Kumar, R/o No.59, Set Lane, K.G.Halli, Bangalore-560045 have changed my name to Selva Kumar vide affidavit dt: 09.11.2024 sworn before Notary Sumithra.N, B'luru

I, DHRUTIN Gowda, S/o. Devaraja Dyavarappa, residing at #539, 15th A Main, UVCE Layout, Basaveshwarnagar, Bengaluru 560079, have changed my name to Dhrutin Gowda Yashoda Devaraja vide Affidavit Dated: 14/11/2024, sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru

I, NATHANYA Sharon Panithi, D/O: Meghana Penumala, R/O: Flat No B–102, Green Finch Vallerian Apartment, Lavakusha Nagar, Near Metro, Bengaluru–100, Have changed my Name to Nathania Sharon Panithi, Vide Afdvt Dtd 13/11/2024

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
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(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division,
2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 01
Telephone No. 080-22133370,
Email ID: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

Tender Notification No. 22/2024-25 Dt- 13.11.2024

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD No.1 SOUTH Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification are Published for 02 works **(Rs. 20.00 to 100.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal.
Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through e-procurement.
1.Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM on Dated: 20.11.2024**
2. The opening of tenders through KPP portal on Dated: **21.11.2024 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be Intimate.
For more details contact this office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
DIPR/CP/3215/Zen/2024-25 **PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.**

MANDYA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES MANDYA
(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
Phone: 08232-231003, 222086, 231197, 224040,
Fax: 08232-231001
E-Mail Address: mimsmandysoffice@gmail.com,
mimsmandya@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION TWO COVER BID SYSTEM

Ref No: MIMS/Sup-D/suture materials/E-tender/15/2024-25, Dated:04.11.2024
Ref No: MIMS/Sup-D/Micro& Physiology/e-tender/16/2024-25, Dated:04.11.2024

Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS), Mandya, invites e-Tender for Supply of Suture material and lab items to the teaching hospital of MIMS Mandya from the Manufacture/s or Authorized Dealers in two cover bid system as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act-1999 and Rules there under. Further details can be obtained in e-procurement portal website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
SL No : 01. Description : Sutures materials items. Tender Approximate Amount (Rs. in Lakh) : 98.00. EMD Amount : 1,96,000/-. Tender Starting date : 13.11.2024. Tender Last Date : 27.11.2024.
SL No : 02. Description : Microbiology lab consumable & etc items. Tender Approximate Amount (Rs. in Lakh) : 25.00. EMD Amount : 50,000/-. Tender Starting date : 14.11.2024. Tender Last Date : 29.11.2024.

Sd/-Director,
Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences, Mandya,
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/439/2024–25

Office of The Deputy Director (Admn.) and District Project Co-ordinator, Samagra Shikshana Karnataka, Department of School Education, Chikkamagaluru.

Short-Term e - Procurement Tender Notice

Short-Term e - Procurement Tender is invited for providing personnel on outsource basis for various posts under Samagra Shikshana Karnataka Scheme for the year 2024-25 from Human Resource Providers with respect to Minimum Wages & Statutory Payments. E.M.D Rs.1,54,877.00
Interested Tenderers can submit the Tender in e-procurement portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home within 4.00 PM on 02.12.2024. For further information this office can be contacted. Office Ph. No.: 08262-295959 &-mail ID: egovchikkamagalore @gmail.com

Sd/- (G.K. Puttaraju) Deputy Director (Admn.) and District Project Co-ordinator, S. S.A. D.S.E. Chikkamagaluru.
DIPR/ckm/No.104/24-25/ksmca/1030

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HOSAPETE
No: CMC/ Health Section/MRF/2024-25 **Dated: 13.11.2024**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT

15th Finance and MPC Fund tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in two cover system are invited from the Class-1 Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below. in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., www.eproc.karnataka.govt.in 1) Pre-Bid Meeting 20.11.2024 at 11.00 AM 2) Tender Last Date: 25.11.2024 TIME: 4.30 PM. 3) Opening for Technical Bid will be on Date: 26.11.2024 TIME: 5.30 PM.4) Opening for Financial Bid will be on Date: 27.11.2024 TIME: 05:30 AM OPENING PLACE OF TENDER:CMC HOSAPETE. **INDENT No. DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT25590/CALL-2** Estimated Cost Rs in (Lakh) 499.99 Lakh, EMD Rs. 7,50,000.00 any other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours.

Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer, CMC Hosapete. **Sd/- Municipal Commissioner, CMC Hosapete.**
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2024-25/KSMCA/RO No/365

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION KOPPAL.
Phone No:08539-222318.email:eepwdkpl2@gmail.com
IFT No. PWD:DK:BD:KW- 4:2024-25:2428 Date: 13-11-2024.

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers as per standard bid documents KW-4 on **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal. **Head of Account : KKRDB Micro Akshakar Avishakar-General/2024-25 & 2025-26.** Two cover Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours on Phone No. 08539 – 222318 and all informations regarding tenders can be had from website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Four (4) Works (Work Indent No: 16287, 16199, 16334 & 16144). Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders **25-11-2024 Time 16.00,** Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid **26-11-2024 Time 16.30.** Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid **29-11-2024 Time 11.00.** Minimum & Estimate Maximum Amount Rs. 200.00 Lakhs & Rs. 250.00 Lakhs respectively. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address, EMD, Date & Time for Pre-bid meeting, Tender Queries/Clarification & Other information as mentioned in KPPP Portal. Any changes either in tender date or any other condition tenderers can view in KPPP portal.

Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Koppal
DIPR/Koppal/542/KSMCA/2024-25

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No:506/BGM/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/C/EE(O)/AEE-3/24-25/F-20/5868-75 Dt:13.11.2024

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KPPP MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids against this office TENDER INDENT No: KPTCL/2024-25/IND0129 for "Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of various types of hardware maintenance materials for 220/110KV lines for replacement and spares in TLM Sub-Division, KPTCL, Belagavi. Conforming to our Technical Specifications.
The detailed notification regarding the works called through the "KPPP" mode can be obtained by logging onto E Procurement's website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **16.11.2024** after **4:00 PM.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.)
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Nehru Nagar, Belagavi-590010. Phone: 0831-2950835/2950836

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ವಾರ್ತಾ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ನಂ 17, "ವಾರ್ತಾಸೌಧ", ಭಗವಾನ್ ಮಹಾವೀರ ರಸ್ತೆ (ಇನ್ಫೆಂಟ್ರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು 560 001.

ಸಂ: ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹೊಗು–ಮಾಸಂಸೇ/2024–25/7915–16 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13–11–2024

ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟವರಿಗೆ

ವಾರ್ತಾ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದ ಮಾನವ ಸೇವೆ ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಆಧಾರಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ **GEM Portal** ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಸೇವಾ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಶೇಕಡವಾರು ದರದ ದ್ವಿಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ/ಸೃಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ ಕೇಳುವ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದ **(Pre-Bid Meeting)** ದಿನಾಂಕ: **14–11–2024** ಅನ್ನು ಕಾರಣಾಂತರಗಳಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **20–11–2024** ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **11.30** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಮುಂದೂಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರು ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಪೂರ್ವ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವುದು. ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವುದು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
(ಮಂಜುನಾಥ ಡೊಳ್ಳಿನ್)
ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಆ)(ಪ್ರ)
DIPR/CP/3173/2024-25

Government of karnataka
CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HASSAN. BM ROAD SANTHEPETE CIRCLE, HASSAN-573201.
Email:commn_hassan@yahoo.com Phone:08172-268276, 263033 web: http://www.hassancity.gov. Help line: 233702,Fax: 234792
No:CMC/HSN/HS/AEE(Env)/CR 33/2024-25 Date:13-11-2024

Re-Tender Notification:
(Through E-Procurement Portal)

City Municipal Council, Hassan invites Re-Tender as per the Approved Action plan of 2024-25 Municipal fund and SWM 2.0 for the following works shown below. 1] Last date and time for Queries /Clarification is 16-11-2024 upto 5.30p.m 2] Last date and time for receipt of Tenders is 20-11-2024 upto 5.30p.m 3] Date and time for Opening of Technical bid is 22-11-2024, 11.00 a.m Sl.No.1.INDENT NO.DMA/2024-25/IND3246/CALL-3 Estimated cost in lakhs:79.32 2.INDENT NO.DMA/2024-25/IND3245/CALL-2 Estimated cost in lakhs:76.05 3.INDENT NO.DMA/2024-25/IND3248/CALL-2 Estimated cost in lakhs:33.80

sd/- President, City Municipal Council Hassan **sd/- Commissioner City Municipal Council Hassan**
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/653/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

सेन्टर फॉर मेटिरियल्स फॉर इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स टेक्नोलाजी (सी-मेटा)
CENTRE FOR MATERIALS FOR ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY (C-MET)
(Scientific Society, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India)
IDA PHASE – III, CHERLAPALLY, HCL (PO), HYDERABAD – 500 051
Phone: +91-40-27265587, 27267006, 27261658 Web: www.cmet.gov.in

Advt. No. : CMET/HD/cluster/EoI/23/SP-49/ - II

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EoI)

C-MET invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from eligible parties for *"Selection of accelerators for dissemination and setting up of e-waste recycling CFCs (Common Facility Centers) for informal sector under the MSME-CDP (Cluster Development Program) scheme"* under MeitY sponsored project titled "Informal Sector Capacity Building Upgradation with Formation of Recycling Clusters and Enabling Technology for Recovery of Resources from Electronic Waste thereby Promoting Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy".

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1.	Accelerators for dissemination and setting up of e-waste recycling CFCs (Common Facility Centers) for informal sector under the MSME-CDP (Cluster Development Program) scheme

For details and downloading of the EoI application format & other requisite documents, please visit our website **www.cmet.gov.in**
Last date for receipt of EoI is: 10th December 2024

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender EMD Amount		Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	South West-1	BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB /2881/2024-25 Dated: 12.11.2024 (4th Call)	1.	₹ 70,57,523/- ₹ 1,41,150/-	26.11.2024 upto 4:00 pm	28.11.2024 after 3:00 pm
2.		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB /2881/2024-25 Dated: 12.11.2024 (4th Call)	2.	₹ 32,50,753/- ₹ 65,050/-		
3.		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB /2881/2024-25 Dated: 12.11.2024 (4th Call)	3.	₹ 27,66,985/- ₹ 55,350/-		
4.		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB /2881/2024-25 Dated: 12.11.2024 (3rd Call)	4.	₹ 58,97,118/- ₹ 1,17,943/-		
5.		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB /2881/2024-25 Dated: 12.11.2024 (3rd Call)	5.	₹ 66,52,887/- ₹ 1,33,060/-		
6.		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB /2881/2024-25 Dated: 12.11.2024 (3rd Call)	6.	₹ 31,42,342/- ₹ 62,850/-		
7.		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB /2881/2024-25 Dated: 12.11.2024 (3rd Call)	7.	₹ 23,42,052/- ₹ 50,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-West-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

8.	North-2	BWSSB/ENTE/AE-1 /1864/2024-25 Dated: 13.11.2024	8.	₹ 23,61,470/- ₹ 50,000/-	22.11.2024 upto 3:00 pm	25.11.2024 after 4:00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-2)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
DIPR/SI/3200/2024-25

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Management Branch, Bengaluru

Authorized Officer's Details:
Name: Sri. C. Krishnamurthy
E-mail Id: sbi.04209@sbi.co.in
Mobile No: 8008572034
Land Line No. (Office): 080-25943489

Address of the Branch: 2nd Floor, Office Complex Building, SBI LHO Campus, No. 65, St. Mark's Road, Bengaluru -560 001
Contact: C O: Sri Prashanth Varma - Mb: 9620432064
Telephone: 080 -25943480, Fax No: 080-22225203,
E-mail Id: sbi.04209@sbi.co.in

APPENDIX –II A / IVA
[See proviso to Rule 6(2) & 9(1)]
E AUCTION SALE ON 05.12.2024
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Properties (Movables & Immovable Assets) Charged/Hypothecated/ Mortgaged to the Bank under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 6(2) & Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and the Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantors in particular that the below described Movable and Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, State Bank of India, Bengaluru, the actual possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As iswhat is", and "Whatever there is" basis on **05.12.2024** for recovery of **Rs.25,24,64,740/-** (Rupees Twenty Five CroreTwenty Four Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Only) as on 30.09.2024 and further interest at contractual rate from 01.10.2024 with incidental expenses + costs, charges etc., due to the Secured Creditor, State Bank of India from the Borrower: **M/s S M Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.,** Regd. Address: No.44/8, Ground Floor, 15th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560003 and Factory at: Plot No.37/A-2, Chokkahalli Village, Pillaguppe Industrial Area, Hosakote Taluk – 562114 AND Guarantors, **(1) Shri Yashwanth K Raju,** S/o Shri K Doraswamy Raju, Managing Director, **(2)Shri K. Doraswamy Raju**, S/o. late Shri Narasa Raju, Director, **(3)Smt.Geetha D Raju,** W/o Shri. K Doraswamy Raju.
The Reserve price, Earnest money deposit (EMD), Bid increment amount, time & date of e-Auction for the movable & immovable assets will be as under:

S. No.	Reserve Price (below which the property will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Bid increment amount	Date of e-Auction 05.12.2024 and time of e Auction
1	Rs 11,88,00,000/-	Rs.1,18,80,000/-	Rs.2,00,000/-	From 11.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.
2	Rs 5,25,00,000/-	Rs.52,50,000/-	Rs.2,00,000/-	From 2.00 P.M. to 4.00 P.M.

DESCRIPTION OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

ITEM (1) : Tender No./ Property ID: 200030395930.

ASSET (A): Plant & Machinery : Plant & Machinery lying at the Factory premises at Plot No.37-A2, Hoskote Industrial Area, Survey Number 96, Part of Chokkahally Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

Note: Detailed list of Plant & Machinery can be had from the Authorised Officer of the Bank and is also uploaded on the website of M/s PSB Alliance Pvt Ltd on its e-auction site https://ebkray.in AND

ASSET (B):Industrial Land & Building: All that piece and parcel of the immovable industrial Plot bearing Number 37-A2 of Hoskote Industrial Area, measuring East to West 53 Meters and North to South 38 Meters, totally measuring 2014 Square Meters, situated in Survey Number 96, Part of Chokkahally Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, E-Khatha Number 15030040120012063, Property Number 119/37-A2 consisting of factory building Ground and First floor measuring 18000 Sq. feet each, Second Floor measuring 9000 Sq. feet and chemical Storage Area of 3000 Sq. feet with RCC Roof, concrete floor including all the appurtenants, fixtures, appliances, easements, benefits etc., standing in the name of M/s S M Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd. represented by (1) Shri Yashwanth K Raju, S/o Shri K Doraswamy Raju, Managing Director, (2) Shri K. Doraswamy Raju, S/o. late Shri K Narasa Raju, Director, vide Sale Deed dated 15.04.2019 and Registered as Document No.HSK-1-00438/2019-20 and CD No.HSKD739 dated 15.04.019 at SRO, Hoskote, Bengaluru and mortgaged in favour of the Bank vide Mortgage Deed dated 15.04.2019 vide Document No.HSK-1-00439 and stored in CD No.HSKD739 dated 15.04.2019 at SRO, Hosakote and the property is bounded on: East by: Plot No.37/A1, West by : KIADB Road, North by: Plot No.37/B, South by : KIADB Road.

Note: Mortgage on the above Property extended vide extension of mortgage deed dated 08.07.2021 and Registered as Document No.YPR-1-01138/2021-22 and CD No.YPRD815 dated 08.07.2021 at SRO, Rajajinagar (Yeshwanthpura).

ITEM (2):PLANT & MACHINERY: TENDER NO./ PROPERTY ID SBIN200040201133

Plant & Machinery lying at the Factory premises at Plot No.37-A2, Hoskote Industrial Area, Survey Number 96, Part of Chokkahally Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

Note: Detailed list of Plant & Machinery can be had from the Authorised Officer of the Bank and is also uploaded on the website of M/s PSB Alliance Pvt Ltd on its e-auction site https://ebkray.in
Note : If the land and building with plant and machinery (ITEM 1) are sold within the time period as mentioned in the sale notice, Auction of plant and machinery (ITEM 2) will be withdrawn.
The sale shall be subject to provisions of the Secularization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE (2nd AUCTION) UNDER "SARFAESI" ACT, 2002.

The Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantors are hereby noticed to pay the sum mentioned above within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which the Bank shall sell the properties as per the provisions laid down in the SARFAESI ACT, 2002.
For detailed terms and conditions of Sale, please refer to the links provided by the Secured Creditors represented by the Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, SAMB, Bengaluru. i.e., **1)https://www.ebkray.in 2)www.sbi.co.in**
For further details regarding inspection of the property the intending bidder may contact the Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Management Branch, 2nd Floor, Office Complex Building, SHI LHO Campus, No.65, St. Mark's Road, Bengaluru – 560001, Telephone: 080-25943470 to 3490 or Authorised Officer 8008572034/ Case Officer 9620432064.
To the best of knowledge of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said properties.
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://ebkray.in

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 13.11.2024

Sd/-
Authorised Officer

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor,
Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023
Telephone No.: 080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com**
No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-3/AE-6/TND/2024-25/2278 Date:14.11.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in Two Tender document system in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform for the following work. Description of works: **Construction of Health and wellness Centres at (1) Nittur, (2) Jangama Tumbigere, (3) Sattur, (4) U Kallahalli, (5) Chirastahalli in Harapanahalli Taluk, (6) Harakabavi, (7) Jolada Kudligi, (8) Rampura in Kudligi Taluk, (9) Enagi, (10) Upanayakanahalli in Hagari Bommanahalli Taluk, (11) M Kallahalli, (12) KK Thanda in Hadagali Taluk, Vijayanagara District. (Call-2)** Approximate Estimate cost (Rs.in Lakhs): **780.00.** EMD (Rs.in Lakhs): **11.70.** Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **11 months.**
Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **16.12.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **17.12.2024 at 16.00 hrs.** The tender details can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform to participate in this tender.
NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids /individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

We on behalf of our clients are investigating title of the properties described in the Schedule below and claimed to be owned by Beloorbayir Biotech Limited, having its registered office at # 564, 4th Cross, Kempegowda HBCS, Opp. Water Tank Park, Kathriguppe, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560 085.

Any person, claiming any right, title, interest, demand or encumbrance over the Schedule Property or any part thereof may notify us about the same in writing with all supporting documentary evidence by registered post/personal delivery within 10 (Ten) days hereof, failing which, our clients in their absolute discretion may proceed to complete the proposed transaction on the basis that there are no claims over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

SCHEDULE OF PLOT NO 25

All that piece and parcel of the land, together with structures standing thereon, situated at Plot No 25, of Satyamangala Industrial Area, Survey No 9 of Satyamangala Village, Kasaba Hobli, Tumkur Taluk, Tumkur District with a total area of 4,045 square meters and bounded on the:

East by : Private Land
West by : Plot No 26 and road
North by : Plot No 10 and OHT; and
South by : Private Land.

SCHEDULE OF PLOT NO 26

All that piece and parcel of the property formed in Plot No 26 of Satyamangala Industrial Area situated in Survey No Part of 7 and 9 of Satyamangala Village, Kasaba Hobli, Tumkur Taluk, Tumkur District measuring 4123 Square meters (44,380.00 Square feet) and bounded as follows:

East by : Plot No 25
West by : Plot No 27-A to 27-C
North by : KIADB 40 wide road and Plot No 25 and
South by : Private Land

O P AGARWAL, ADVOCATE
KHAITAN & CO LLP
Advocates, Notaries, Patent & Trademark Attorneys
Embassy Quest, 3rd Floor, 45/1, Magrath Road,
Bengaluru - 560 025. E-mail: bengaluru@khaitanco.co

Place: Bangalore
Date: 15.11.2024

Sweet side Patricia Cosma (below) and Ketaki Churi aim to widen our cacao palate with this fest. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India's chocolate story

The Indian Cacao and Craft Chocolate Festival returns to Bengaluru with new workshops, labels, and an international tasting session

Nidhi Adlakha
nidhi.adlakha@thehindu.co.in

'Bigger. Better. Bountiful.' That is how Ketaki Churi and Patricia Cosma – co-founders of one of India's largest festivals dedicated to chocolate – describe its upcoming fourth edition. To be held in Bengaluru, the Indian Cacao and Craft Chocolate Festival has a host of new offerings, including international brands, workshops, and other interactive activities.

"We are bringing together 40 artisanal brands, out of which about 25 are craft chocolate brands and cacao farmers," says Patricia, adding that brands like Manam, Subko Cacao, Bon Fiction, Paul & Mike, Chitra'm, and Soklet "will have bigger, customised setups on the ground floor." The only parameters they keep in mind when selecting new chocolate brands are that "they have to be tree to bar or bean to bar, or else is not craft chocolate and the quality has to meet certain standards," she adds.

Visitors can expect all-day workshops and talks; a display by gourmet food brands such as Maki, The Cubbon Table, Trippy Goat, Copper & Cloves, Ulo; and a cacao ceremony guided by musician and sound bath facilitator Siddarth Venkat. Other new additions include a live stall by BAR, a new craft couverture chocolate brand from Baroda, and visitors will be able to see pastry chefs creating confectionery with their chocolate.

"We also have on board a new fine cacao processing brand from Kerala, India Cocoa, and the internationally recognised machinery brand, Spectra," says Patricia.

Putting farmers first

"For those into pairings, we have options to try with chocolate, including cheese, wine, tea, coffee, and even functional mushrooms," adds Ketaki, who will also host a hands-on session for children where they will draw whatever they imagine when they taste certain varieties of chocolate. Other events include talks on specialty coffee meets fine cacao

and how to run a chocolate business profitably.

Ketaki adds how visitors enjoy meeting cacao farmers and trying their farm-grown products. "This year, Chempotty Estate from Mysore will be bringing their own chocolate huraco, and Varanashi Farms from Dakshina Kannada will be sharing their earth-to-bar Terra artisanal chocolate bars with organic superfoods. Cacao processors like Kuruvilakunel and India Cocoa from Kerala will also be there with unique regional flavours.

International offerings

In a first, the duo are bringing two tree-to-bar brands from Philippines and Thailand, and an international speaker, Martin Christy from the International Institute of Chocolate & Cacao Tasting (IICCT) who will host the festival's first international tasting session.

"I will be leading a tasting of craft chocolate bars, both single origin and flavoured ones, which will help to show how the new Indian craft chocolate scene matches up against the best in the world of fine chocolate," says Martin, who says farmers need to move away from growing generic mixes of cacao types towards single varietal cacao. We also have a professional session on the genetics of Indian cacao to understand how farmers could develop their crops in the future."

On November 16 and 17 at Bengaluru International Centre. From 10 am to 8 pm. For tickets, log on to craftchocolateindia.com

STEPOUT

High on design

The Hi Life Exhibition with a range of designer wear and home accessories, will be held from November 15 to 17 at The Lalit Ashok, Bengaluru. On display will be stalls with bridal wear, gold jewellery, bed linen, nail art, bags and clutches, furnishings and furniture, hand made soaps and more.
From November 15-17, 10am to 8pm.

Hooked to books

Hook Book Day by Atta Galatta presents Let's Get Hooked! a Children's Fest by Duckbill. It brings together authors, storytellers and illustrators. Along with finger-food and snacks, there will be a series of activities. It will also be a day of readings, interactive discussions and roundtables. Children will get to hear from authors and illustrators.
On November 16, 10.30am to 5.30pm at Atta Galatta. Call 9632510126 or visit BookMyShow to reserve your place.

Woodland wonders

Kynkyny Art Gallery is hosting an art exhibition titled Forest Fables. The show, which features the works of Ganapati Hegde, concludes on November 22. The series captures the wild wonderland of coastal Karnataka with its rich biodiversity and is open for viewing between 11am and 6pm. Entry free.
Kynkyny Art Gallery is at Embassy Square, Infantry Road.

ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

Cheated, sold, trapped, and abused: Harrowing tales of trafficked teens

Bengaluru police booked 129 cases under the Immoral Trafficking Act in 2021. The number of cases rose to 155 in 2022, and 161 in 2023, an increase of 25% from 2021 to 2023, reports **Imran Gowhar**

Tara (name changed), 17, was residing with her grandmother in Kushtia district in Bangladesh before her life took a turn for the worse.

Tara's mother was a commercial sex worker who had been in Bengaluru for 15 years. After her grandmother's death, Tara moved in with her maternal aunt in Bangladesh. The maternal aunt secured Tara's engagement with a local boy, but the marriage was called off. Then, Tara's mother, with the help of her sister (the girl's maternal aunt) and a trafficking agent, Laltu, smuggled her daughter over the border into India and then into Bengaluru.

Her mother and Laltu forced Tara into the sex trade and sent her to multiple pimps. One of the many pimps was Sampa Begum alias Kajol, who was forcing Tara into sex trade at a brothel in Byadarahalli.

She was among the 13 minor girls rescued by the Central Crime Branch (CCB), who, in association with two city-based NGOs, cracked down on brothels and rescued minor girls. The police also arrested 26 persons who were part of the racket and booked them under POCSO and human trafficking acts.

"It was a complex operation. The two NGOs kept a watch on these illegal activities for over two months to gather evidence," a senior police officer told *The Hindu*. The operation was initiated after one of the NGOs received a tip-off about a minor girl being forced into commercial sex work.

On May 16, one of the NGO staff, with the help of the CCB team, conducted surveillance at one of the brothels. However, they could not confirm the presence of a minor.

The NGO kept up its vigil. Its suspicion was confirmed. Three days later, a team of NGO staff and CCB went to Byadarahalli, raided the brothel and rescued two victims – one minor and an adult. The police arrested the accused, Muneer and his wife, Sampa Begum, along with the customer.

Tara tipped off the police about the location of another pimp, who the police pursued. Tara was admitted to the Government Children's Home for Girls.

The NGO, which was part of the rescue team, was asked to help with her rehabilitation. Tara was overjoyed to use a computer for the first time during her stay in the children's home. She wants to learn more. She is also interested in music and knows how to play a few musical instruments. Recently, she was transferred to a private child care institute (CCI), where she enrolled in tailoring and beautician courses. Tara's ambition is to go back to Bangladesh and use her new skills to make a living.

> Cracking down on human trafficking for immoral activities is our top priority. The focus is on rooting out the social evil rather than punitive action.
>
> **CHANDRAGUPTA**
> Additional Commissioner of Police, Crime

The ugly truth

The police say this is a well-oiled racket run by multiple agents as the demand for minor girls among customers is on the rise. Three out of 13 rescued victims are from Bangladesh and came to the city via the porous border. This was facilitated by a group of people who trafficked girls from Bangladesh to India for sex trade.

Following the raid, the network has shifted their bases to neighbouring States, but they will be back after some time due to the high demand, the police officials added. As per police statistics, the city is witnessing an increase in crimes against women and children. If we look at two specific markers, immoral trafficking of women and POCSO, these have risen significantly from 2021 to 2023.

The city police booked 129 cases under the Immoral Trafficking Act in 2021. The number of cases rose to 155 in 2022 and 161 in 2023 - an increase of 25 % from 2021 to 2023. For the same period, the city police booked 403 cases under the POCSO Act in 2021, 480 cases in 2022, and 560 cases in 2023. The cases under the POCSO Act have risen by 39% from 2021 to 2023.

The accused in the crime have been booked under different sections, including human trafficking, immoral trafficking and POCSO, to ensure maximum punishment for the accused in the case.

Tragic stories of minors

Based on the tip-off by Tara, the police raided another brothel at Anepalya in Ashok Nagar, and rescued a 16-year-old girl.

The victim, Priya (name changed), told the police that she is from Punjab and studying in class 10. She narrated to the police how she had been passed on from one pimp to another.

She was lured by a group of local habitual offenders in Punjab, who trapped minor girls promising love and marriage and pushed them into the sex trade, she told the rescue team. A trafficker named Deep pretended to love Priya and got her to elope with him to Bengaluru a month before the raid. He sold her to Nita Kaur, a brothel owner, who, in turn, sold Priya to another pimp named Pooja.

Pooja forced Priya into the sex trade. Pooja alias Shobha Das, who has now been arrested, had threatened Priya not to ever talk about the trade or her role in it. As Priya had run away from home to be with Deep, she had no hope of rescue till the brothel was raided.

Meanwhile, the victim's parents had filed a missing person's complaint in Punjab and had been searching for her. Priya was reunited with her parents after the rescue. The victim gave her statement against the accused and demanded strict action, the police official added.

The Punjab police have arrested Deep, and he is currently in prison. The victim is now back in Punjab and has resumed school. Through a local partner, the rescue team is monitoring the victim and providing online counselling. Priya aspires to join the Indian army and serve the country.

Too many tragic twists

In another case, the CCB team conducted a raid at a brothel in Parappana Agrahara and found that a minor girl had been re-trafficked. The minor, Gita (name changed), was trafficked by her friend Mahi and her husband Akash. They conned her by sending her to Bengaluru from Tripura for a job in a beauty parlour'.

After she came to Bengaluru, she was forced into the sex trade. While she was in the sex trade, she fell in love with Manoj. He took her home with him. However, in a tragic twist, Manoj's mother, Sonu alias Savita (also an accused in this case), forced Gita into the sex trade.

The Begur police rescued Gita on a tip-off. The police, however, thought she was above 18 years, and Gita was sent to the State Home for Women. Later, a man claiming to be Gita's father submitted her actual age-proof documents to the court. The victim was then produced by the Child Welfare Committee and, through a court order, released to the father.

> It's a well-oiled racket run by multiple agents as the demand for minor girls among customers is on the rise.
>
> **A POLICE OFFICIAL**

The 'father' left Gita with the accused, who pushed her into prostitution again. The CCB, which got information about Gita, raided the brothel and rescued the minor girl.

Gita, hailing from Tripura, doesn't have a good relationship with her family. Her family might be part of the crime, which is being probed, according to the police. The police said that the victim is currently in a children's home. She is healing and recovering from the trauma. Gita is learning to use the computer, stitching and dance.

Taking care of siblings

In another case, the CCB team followed an autorickshaw driver while he was ferrying a victim and her mother to a customer's house. They discovered that the mother had sold her minor daughter to a pimp. At the customer's house, the police team arrested the customer, the auto driver, and the mother and rescued the minor victim, Meena (name changed)

The CCB probe revealed that the victim is 16 years old and is from Bengaluru. She is a high school student. She has five sisters and three brothers. Meena got emotional as she narrated her story to the rescue team. After Meena's father's death, their uncle took away the footwear shop that was owned by her father, and Meena's family did not have enough money to survive. Meena's mother has diabetes, and they were unable even to buy her medicines.

Meena's mother asked her to get into the sex trade to support the family. She did not tell Meena about the actual nature of work. Meena only realised what she was getting into after her first day at work.

But she continued due to the pathetic situation of her family. She told the police that her mother handled all the money transactions with the pimps. Meena was clueless about how much money she earned. However, it was her income that paid for the medical bills, rent, and daily expenses for the past one year.

Meena is now being rehabilitated at the children's home. She is finally beginning to find hope and a chance to be like other girls of her age," the police officer said.

In a similar case, the police and the NGO team rescued a minor girl from Kengeri.

The victim, Ramya (name changed), is a 15-year-old girl from T. Narasipura in Mysuru district. She had completed her class 9. As it was difficult to pay the fees, she had to drop out of school. She has four siblings - two older sisters, a younger sister, and a brother. Her mother, Manjula, works as a housekeeper, and also sells vegetables. Her father works but is an alcoholic who doesn't support his family.

Her second sister had to undergo kidney surgery, and the family took a large loan to pay for that, Ramya told the NGO staff. To repay the loan, Ramya's mother, Manjula, sent her into the sex trade through a distant relative. Now, she is staying in the Children's Home for Girls, and the NGO team is supporting her healing through casework and counselling.

Police step up vigil

The police have attributed the rise in the number of cases to enhanced awareness, initiatives of filing *suo motu* cases, and registration of e-FIRs, among other factors. The CCB officials have stepped up vigil and issued strict instructions to the jurisdictional police.

The station in charge has been directed to be sensible and sensitive in handling child sex trafficking cases and have zero tolerance towards any such activity.

The Additional Commissioner of Police, Crime, Chandragupta, who supervised the recent rescue operation, said, "Cracking down on human trafficking for immoral activities, especially involving minor girls, is our top priority. The bigger responsibility is to rehabilitate and keep a tab on these victims and the accused to ensure that such activities do not resurface. The focus is on rooting out the social evil rather than punitive action."

"People should actively help the police to fight this social evil, which is causing a stain on a progressive and educated society," he emphasised.

In *Hoemonal*, Sumukhi Suresh brings to the stage, candid comedy on health, singlehood, resilience, and tackling taboos with a humour that resonates beyond laughs

Lady like Sumukhi Suresh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Of hormones and humour

Praveen Sudevan
praveen.sudevan@thehindu.co.in

Sumukhi Suresh seems to have run the gamut of responses to her comedy, and each reaction adds a layer to her understanding of humour's reach. Once, in Bengaluru, an elderly man filed a police complaint against her, calling her comedy "vulgar" and her a "public nuisance." Equally memorable was a performance in Chennai, where a 70-year-old woman was there on her husband's death anniversary, dressed in her wedding saree. Instead of mourning, she told Sumukhi she wanted to laugh and be happy, as her husband would have liked . It's a moment that profoundly moved Sumukhi, and affirmed her belief in the power of her storytelling.

Sumukhi's latest stand-up show, *Hoemonal*, is a comedic self-portrait shaped by personal revelations. Through wry, intimate humour, she recounts experiences with singlehood, body image, and navigating her thirties with a curious mixture of fear and defiance. This show, like her other works, is her attempt to "speak without a filter," offering her audience the parts of herself that many people, especially women, choose to conceal.

"All my works share a common element: honesty. I tell my stories with honesty and vulnerability. I embarrass myself and make the stories personal. I don't ask the audience to relate; I simply share my experiences," she says, "And honesty is essential in stand-up comedy. The more honest I am, the more likely I am to make the audience laugh. If I'm dishonest, the audience will notice."

Tamil at The Fringe

Making a debut at the prestigious Edinburgh Fringe Festival with *Hoemonal*, Sumukhi experienced firsthand the push-and-pull of performing on an international stage. She admits she had to work to get her unique cultural and comedic sensibilities across. But rather than catering to unfamiliar sensibilities, she held fast to her roots, making references to Indian-specific situations and even weaving Tamil phrases into her material.

"I considered adapting the show (for the Fringe audience) but decided against it. The story I tell is more important than the references I use. If you understand my story and message, that's a win. Judging me solely on references means you're not paying attention. So, I kept breaking into Tamil often. So, they were like, 'Wait. What is this now?' But the Tamilians in the crowd were really happy. They were like, 'Thank you so much for the representation'," she laughs.

Breaking taboos

Sumukhi's comedy is especially noteworthy because she foregrounds women's health and societal attitudes towards it. Diagnosed with PCOS and prediabetes, she openly addresses the frustrations of managing chronic conditions in a world that often turns a blind eye to the realities of women's health. In *Hoemonal*, she recounts her regular visits to her gynecologist, relaying them with such vividness that audiences feel as though they're in the examination room alongside her.

She says that much of her resilience came not from her career but from her childhood experiences of what she calls "fat-girl bullying," which taught her to deflect, dodge, and ultimately ignore

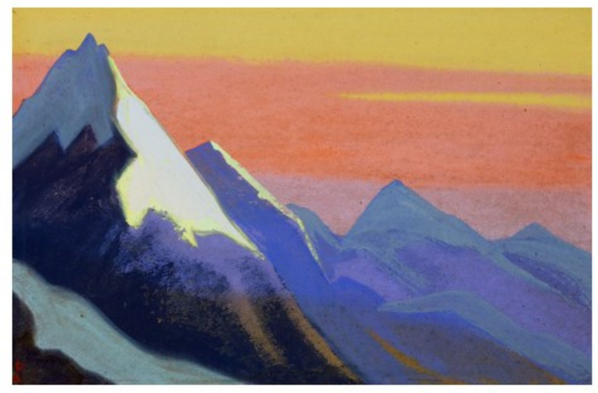
Her candour about the struggles of a modern woman – health, ageing, singlehood, and all – is what makes her material hit close to home for so many.

Hoemonal *will be performed in Bengaluru at Good Shepherd Auditorium on November 17*

Why we should remember Roerich

An exhibition celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Nicholas Roerich is currently underway at Chitrakala Parishath

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in



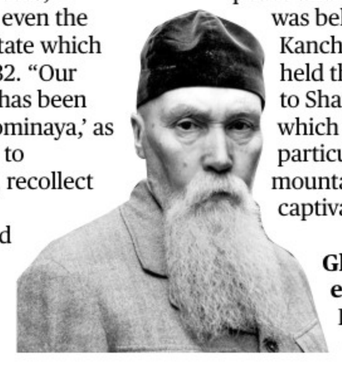
Mountain majesty From Vspominaya Roerich @ 150, Nicholas Roerich (below). KARNATAKA CHITRAKALA PARISHATH

With Vspominaya Roerich @ 150, Bengaluru joins the world in honouring Nicholas Roerich who was not only a painter and writer, but also a philosopher and humanitarian. The word 'Vspominaya,' is Russian for 'remembering' and aptly sums up a glimpse of Roerich's amazing legacy.

Roerich, who was born Nikolai Konstantinovich Rerikh, on October 8, 1874 in Russia's St Petersburg, created over 7,000 paintings and authored 29 books. Put together by Vijayashree CS, curator at the Chitrakala Parishath Museum, Vspominaya Roerich @ 150 is a tribute to a man way ahead of his time.

According to Vijayashree, Chitrakala Parishath houses the largest collection of Roerich's art in India with 36 of his pieces, surpassing even the Roerich Estate which possesses 32. "Our exhibition has been titled 'Vspominaya,' as we wanted to remember, recollect and revisit Roerich and his relevance today. Roerich produced his Himalayan Studies Series after he settled in India. He was drawn to the Eastern ideas of mysticism and would take up expeditions into the Himalayas and Central Asian regions for a deeper understanding of their cultural, scientific and artistic facets."

Roerich was fascinated by the idea of Shambhala, described in Tibetan, Buddhist, Upanishads and early Hindu texts as an ideal realm of beauty, peace and truth. "It was believed Kanchenjunga held the gateway to Shambhala, which is why this particular mountain captivated him."



Global emissary

Deeply disturbed by the collateral damage caused by World War I, Roerich drafted the Roerich Pact, one of the first international peace pacts in the defense of cultural objects, which was accepted and signed as a treaty by world leaders in 1935.

Roerich's forethought set the blueprint for UNESCO and other cultural heritage organisations – a fact that gains significance given the current political climate, she adds.

The artist was also instrumental in designing the Banner of Peace, a symbol of three red dots within a red circle, to depict peace and cultural protection.

Vspominaya Roerich @ 150 is on till November 18 at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath. Entry free.

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A BG-BGE

From Page One

SIT to probe 'scam' during COVID-19

The SIT would confine its probe to the findings of the D'Cunha panel report.

The Cabinet sub-committee, headed by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, studied the interim report and briefed the Cabinet and later it was decided that a SIT would be formed for further investigation of the alleged irregularities that occurred in the purchase of medical equipment and the management of the pandemic, the Minister said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who is expected to campaign for Congress's candidates in the Maharashtra Assembly elections for the next two days, is expected to appoint the IGP level officer and issue an order soon, said Mr. Patil, who is among the five members of the Cabinet panel.

PAC report

The D'Cunha commission was constituted to look into the alleged irregularities after the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the State legislature submitted a report on the "misuse" of public funds and abuse of power during the management of COVID-19.

The commission submitted its interim report based on 50,000 files from various departments that were examined, the Minister explained.

The interim report had cited irregularities to the tune of "crores of rupees", besides flagging the missing files on the issue, he added.

Panel finds lapses in procurement of medical equipment worth ₹918 crore

There is *prima facie* material suggesting bid rigging and cartel formation by certain firms with the nexus of officials: D'Cunha commission report

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The report by the commission headed by retired High Court judge John Michael D'Cunha, which probed into the alleged COVID-19 scam that is said to have occurred during the BJP government's tenure, has found several procedural and administrative lapses in the purchase orders worth over ₹918.34 crore issued by the Directorate of Medical Education (DME) towards procurement of medical equipment, PPE kits, masks, ICU units, CT scanners, baby incubators, and other consumables during the financial years 2019-2020 to 2022-2023.

According to a 351-page report on procurements made by the DME that is compiled in part III of the report, procurement was made without quotations and without determining the price. While several companies dealing in medical equipment have indulged in "corrupt and fraudulent practices" in connivance with officials, records relating to the installations were not available in the files. "There is *prima facie* material suggesting bid rigging and cartel formation by certain firms with the nexus of officials," stated the report.

Recommending criminal prosecution against officials and recovery of over ₹90 crore excess amount paid to the companies and dealers, the commission has suggested blacklisting several firms.

According to the report, procurement of medical equipment, PPE kits, masks, ICU units, CT scanners, and baby incubators was made by the Directorate of Medical Education without quotations and without determining the price. FILE PHOTO

Discrepancies

While the commission found several discrepancies in the procurement of arterial blood gas analysers, artificial manual breathing unit bags, and automated biochemistry analysers, it has said the purchase of baby incubators worth nearly ₹2 crore was made without quotations. Noting that the records relating to the installations were not available in the file, the commission has recommended a departmental inquiry against the officials involved in the procurement.

"While there is a delay of more than one month in the supply and installation of baby incubators, the procurement was made based on a single quotation, without the determination of the actual market price of the equipment. The procurement was made at the higher rate at ₹5.5 lakh per unit against the estimated government rate of ₹1 lakh."

For defibrillators

According to information provided by the current Medical Education Director to the commission, 253 defibrillators at a total cost of ₹14.5 crore were procured during the pandemic and ₹13.07 crore was paid to the supplier.

Quotations were called on March 23, 2020, for procurement of these machines and the lowest bidder was issued a purchase order on March 26 the same year on the condition to complete the supplies within two days, failing which penalty of 0.15% of the undelivered quantity was to be levied for each day and delay exceeding seven days would entail cancellation.

The commission's scrutiny of records found that the supplies were completed on April 8, 2020, and installations completed on May 5, 2020, in violation of the contract condition. However, the full payment of ₹79.12 lakh was made without deducting the penalty. The penalty of ₹3.71 lakh has to be recovered from the agency, the report stated. The commission also found that a lower quotation by another agency was rejected by changing the evaluation criteria. The reason cited for rejecting the quotation of another agency was that the equipment could not be upgraded to additional parameters. "This reason on the face of it is proved to be false," the report stated.

Not upgraded

"There are no records to show that any of these defibrillators were upgraded during COVID-19. Therefore, the approach of the Technical Evaluation Committee on the face of it appears to be to favour the second lowest bidder," the report stated, adding that the award of contract to the second lowest bidder was "arbitrary, illegal, non-transparent, and has resulted in undue advantage to the company corresponding loss to the State".

'Blatant illegalities in purchase of CT scanners'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The commission headed by retired High Court judge John Michael D'Cunha, which probed the alleged COVID-19 scam, has found "blatant illegalities" in the procurement of CT scanners during the pandemic, according to the commission report.

The Directorate of Medical Education had purchased 11 units of 128-slice CT scanners at a price of ₹62.67 crore and six units of 40- rows 80 slice CT scanners at ₹22.32 crore (total cost ₹84.99 crore).

Price variation

Noting that there was a striking variation in the price paid for the same units purchased between August 12, 2020, and March 2, 2022, through different modes, the report stated that out of the 17 CT scanners, one was procured through GeM portal at ₹4.92 crore and two scanners of the same specifications were procured under 4(g) exemption at the same rate. However, two units of scanners bought for the Kalyana Karnataka region were purchased at ₹6.1 crore each. "Besides, the price paid for six similar units purchased through tender from the same agency was ₹5.79 crore each."

"When the same equipment was already supplied by another company at ₹4.92 crore, there was no necessity whatsoever to call for a quotation and award the contract to another company at a higher rate of ₹5.95 crore and ₹6.1 crore per unit," the report said.

Lokayukta SIT to probe illegal mining by 10 'C' category firms, contractors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

H.K. Patil

The State government on Thursday decided to order a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT), constituted under the State Lokayukta, into illegal mining allegedly by 10 'C' category firms and contractors.

The State Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah decided to order probe against the companies and contractors allegedly involved in illegal mining: Mysore Manganese Company, M. Dasharatha Rami Reddy, Allum Veerabharappa, Karnataka Limpo, Anjana Minerals, Razaiya Khanum, Milana Minerals (Mahalakshmi and Company), M. Srinivasalu, Channakeshava Reddy (Lakshminarasimha Mining Company), and G. Rajshekar, said Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil.

CS to give information

Mr. Patil said the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had declined to conduct a probe into six cases pertaining to the export of illegal iron ore from ports. Chief Secretary Shalini Rajnish would bring details related to all six cases to the next Cabinet meeting, he added.

Had declined to probe

Out of nine cases, the CBI declined to undertake the probe into six cases pertaining to the illegal export of ore from the ports of Karwar and Mangaluru in Karnataka, Ennore and Chennai in Tamil Nadu, and Panaji and Mormugao in Goa, Mr. Patil said.

Some media reports of 2018 suggested that the then Congress government had asked the CBI to drop the six cases of illegal export of iron ore from ports following several incumbent MLAs and leaders from Ballari district joining the party.

'Zameer's remarks drove away some voters from Cong.'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after the Channapatna byelection witnessed very high polling, after a fortnight of an intense campaign, Congress candidate C.P. Yogeshwar on Thursday felt that certain statements made by party leaders, especially Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, drove away certain voters from the Congress.

"Some statements from leaders hurt people's sentiments. Mr. Zameer's statement may have helped in Muslim consolidation, but votes from certain communities were reduced. Though Janata Dal (Secular) leaders wanted to vote for me, they went back to their party," the four-time MLA told presspersons. Mr. Zameer's reference to Union Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy as "kalia" (dark-skinned), in a campaign speech, had kicked up a row days ahead of polling.

> This is a crucial election for me. I have not lost self-confidence. We have given a tough fight and it will be a photo finish.
>
> **C.P. YOGESHWAR,** Congress candidate

Channapatna, which had seen 85.86% voting in 2023, this time recorded 88.8% polling, driven by a high turnout of voters who have migrated out of the constituency.

Mr. Yogeshwar, who is pitted against National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate Nikhil Kumaraswamy, outlined the tough battle. "This is a crucial election for me. I have not lost self-confidence. We have given a tough fight and it will be a photo finish."

Community dynamics

Detailing the adverse situation that he faced during the campaign, he said: "There is a section of the (Vokkaliga) community that does not like any criticism of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy." Terming Mr. Gowda as a "political giant", he said, "Mr. Gowda had come for campaign for over a week and is bent on getting his grandson elected."

He spoke of the uphill task for the Congress in the constituency which had polled about 30,000 votes in 2018 and 15,000 votes in the 2023 election.

"A huge gap had to be bridged to win. Of the total of about 2.06 lakh votes polled, one has to get over one lakh votes to win. I had polled 85,000 in the previous elections." He said that change of symbol for him and the BJP and JD(S) coming together were a big challenge.

When asked if he could have contested as an Independent instead of joining the Congress, Mr. Yogeshwar said, "The decision to join the Congress was right. However, it provided a peculiar situation like in the IPL where a player changes teams. I contested on the BJP symbol in the last Assembly election, worked with BJP-JD(S) combine in the parliamentary election and criticised the Congress, and now I contested on the Congress symbol."

'People's blessings'

Meanwhile, Mr. Nikhil Kumaraswamy, at a press conference, claimed that people from all walks of life had blessed him in the election, which assumed national importance. "Workers of both JD(S) and BJP have worked day and night and people have blessed me. This is going to be a historic election."

HC stays FIR registered against Tejasvi Surya

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday stayed the investigation into the first information report (FIR) registered by the Haveri police against Lok Sabha member Tejasvi Surya for allegedly creating enmity among groups/religions by circulating "false information" in a social media post in connection with the death of a farmer who had ended his life in 2022.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order while observing that the contents of the complaint *prima facie* would not become ingredients for an offence under Section 353(2) of the BNS.

A farmer, Rudrappa, from Haranagiri village in Hangal taluk of Haveri district ended his life on January 6, 2022. However, his father gave an interview to certain media outlets during the first week of November 2024, alleging that his son had ended his life after knowing that name of wakf was entered in the revenue records of their land.

Mr. Surya, with links to the report, had posted on X on November 7, 2024, that in "their haste to appease minorities, CM Siddaramaiah and Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan have unleashed catastrophic effects in Karnataka..." IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge had called out Mr. Surya for "spreading misinformation and fuelling communal tension for electoral gain".

The Superintendent of Police, Haveri district, issued a press release stating that Rudrappa's father, in his statement given to the police, had stated that "Rudrappa had taken loans of ₹7 lakh and suffered extensive crop damage due to excessive rains, pushing him to take the extreme step". Mr. Surya, following this clarification, delated his social media post.

DKS defends CM's charge of BJP trying to lure 50 Cong. MLAs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday defended Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's claim that the Opposition BJP was trying to lure 50 Congress MLAs with an offer of ₹50 crore each.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Shivakumar said, "The BJP has spoken to our MLAs about the 'operation lotus'. They are luring them with ₹50 crore each. Some of the MLAs reported this to the Chief Minister and he spoke about this to the media. I will talk about this later."

Mr. Siddaramaiah on Wednesday in Mysuru alleged that the BJP had offered ₹50 crore each to 50 Congress MLAs to destabilise his government.

D.K. Shivakumar

Meanwhile, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra challenged Mr. Siddaramaiah to disclose the source and show proof for his allegation that the BJP attempted to bribe Congress MLAs.

Encroachments on Muzrai temples to be cleared

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Rajya Dharmika Parishath has decided to offer ₹5,000 for those undertaking the pilgrimage to Vaishnodevi shrine.

At a meeting chaired by Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Wednesday, it was also decided to undertake a survey of properties belonging to temples in the Muzrai Department, remove encroachments, and secure properties.

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242513 004431	Procurement of Liquid PAC (Poly Aluminium Chloride) for Unit - I.	28.11.2024
242513 004452	Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp Hardwood (BCTMP HW 83) for Unit - I.	27.11.2024
242523 002793	Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp Hardwood (BCTMP HW 80) for Unit - II.	27.11.2024
Email	242513004416 - purchase.fuel@tnpl.co.in 242513004431 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 242513004452 ; 242523002793 - purchase.pulp@tnpl.co.in	

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

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Retired General Manager,
Indian Oxygen Limited
Passed away peacefully on 14/11/2024
Cremation on 15/11/2024.
Bereaved by
Saraswathi (wife) & Sons.
98400 69347

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

2nd Death Anniversary
J PARAMESWARAPPA
Retd. Principal PDA Eng. College; Gulbarga

01/07/1934 to 15/11/2022
We remember and miss you each moment of our day! Your principles and thoughts guide us always.
Mahadevi Jade & Family

From VHS to OTT: The struggle to keep city's film societies alive in the digital age

Gone are the days when film societies thrived in Bengaluru with regular screenings and discussions. Has the void really been filled by digital platforms and other fora?

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's film society culture, once vibrant and thriving, is now struggling to stay relevant. With streaming platforms, festivals and multiplexes dominating entertainment choices, film societies face dwindling audiences and financial strain.

Among the very few societies the city still has, Suchitra Film Society in Banashankari stands out as the city's pioneer. Founded in 1971, it has a legacy spanning over 50 years. During a time when access to international and independent cinema was limited, Suchitra introduced people of Bengaluru to world cinema, rare classics, and art films, building a community of passionate film lovers. This society helped shape the city's film culture, providing a space where cinema could be discussed, celebrated, and appreciated beyond mainstream trends. Today, however, Suchitra and other film societies like it are struggling to survive in a world transformed by digital entertainment.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Anand Varadaraj, founder, of Bangalore International Short Film Festival (BISFF) and executive committee member at Suchitra Film Society, says that the technological growth and traffic snarls in the city have affected audiences that come to film societies and art festivals in general. "Friends who live beyond Koramangala or Whitefield do not want to come watch a play at Ranga Shankara, or a screening at Suchitra because they feel it's really very far and will not be able to reach on time. The growth of over-the-top media services (OTT) and film festivals going online have also majorly contributed to the dwindling audiences in film societies. However, film festivals that happen annually still have a crowd, because these are films that are not even available on OTT." It would be wrong to say that the culture of film society is completely gone, but it is not the same anymore, he feels. "Earlier films that were screened were hard to find for a regular audience from Bengaluru, and people would wait for such screenings, but now it is a completely different ball game. At Suchitra, we have a screening every Friday and have about 40-50 people walking in. However, most of these audiences are withing the 5-6 km radius," he adds.

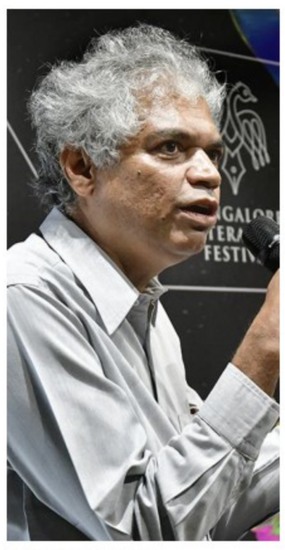
With OTT platforms, festivals and multiplexes dominating entertainment choices, film societies face dwindling audiences and financial strain. FILE PHOTO

Suchitra Film Society.

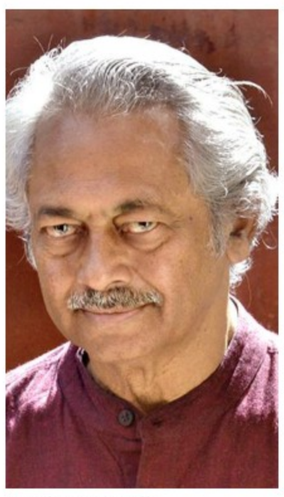
New attractions

Anand says that the Suchitra Film Society has been trying to make the space more engaging with new attractions, "It is a 50-year-old society and there are many people who have grown up with this. Since it was started in the 70s, we have lost track of many of the members who have changed their addresses and shifted from landlines to mobile phones. But, we still have a good 700 plus-member count, out of which many have life-time memberships also. We are trying to keep the space more engaging with regular events including Sahithya Sanje, a new cafe that has become a hub for film discussions, casting directors, script writers and more. A studio space is available for dance and theatre rehearsals. Our auditorium can be booked by filmmakers for screenings. We have also set up a library in collaboration with JustBooks, that also includes some books on films by Suchitra."

Apart from Suchitra, some of the running film societies/clubs in the city are, Unnati Studio Theatre, near Hosakerahalli, founded by late academician H.V. Venugopal in 2018, which has been screening films every Saturday with a monthly theme. Bangalore Creative Circus (BCC) and the Initiative for Climate Action started the Climate Film Club which screens documentaries and feature films every Sunday at the BCC office in Yeshwantpur. On the other hand, The Film Club hosted by Lahe Lahe at Kodihalli meets on the third Saturday of each month. However, instead of holding screenings, members meet to discuss movies they have watched.



Prakash Belawadi



Girish Kasaravalli

Senior film director and a pioneer of Kannada parallel cinema Girish Kasaravalli says that film societies became alternate venues for screenings, but never built a film culture in Karnataka like they did in West Bengal and Kerala. "There were eight film societies in Bengaluru earlier, but very few of them built a film culture, held discussion with filmmakers and audiences. They would simply screen films. Not many people in the audience would come there for the love of cinema. They would walk in just for the entertainment," he adds.

Kasaravalli says that audiences these days are better informed and have better access. "Those who want to watch world cinema have their own sources and ways to get them now. They are not dependent on film societies. Films are easily available on OTT or YouTube. Earlier people went to film societies because that was the only opportunity to catch up with international cinema. A film that is announced today is available for everyone at their fingertips within one or two days."

Prakash Belawadi, a multi-lingual actor and film director, says that when people could not get quality international cinema through television or films festivals, film societies became very important. "Back then filmmakers in these societies explained the context, techniques, genres and politics of each film that was screened. It influenced a lot of new filmmakers. The first shift or compromise on film societies happened a long time ago when video home system (VHS) cassettes came. Of course, it was initially accessible by the upper class, but as technology grows, it becomes cheaper and easily available," he explains.

"The film society movement in the last 40 years has gone down, it no longer has the same power. When Satyajit Ray came to Bengaluru decades ago, he was amazed to see a thriving movement. But his surprise was itself a hint that its hay days were over already. Now, with OTT, social media and more, unless a film society creates relevance with discussions and more, it is hard for it to go on," says Belawadi.

Film director and screenwriter Abhay Simha says, "There was one society called Vikalp that featured a lot of offbeat films, and something called Chitrasamuha run by late S. Ramachandra, another society called Collective Chaos. But now there are not many active film societies. Physically going somewhere and watching a film has become extremely difficult these days. OTT and the perception that we have access to everything has changed a lot. Film societies were more than about just films, it was the discussion and talks post a screening. That has gone down and has been taken over by social media discussions."

Revamp film societies

Harshil Koushik, an actor and cinema buff, says film societies have been breeding grounds for a lot of filmmakers in the past. "They had access to very rare films and films that need to be celebrated. If film societies revamp the way they work and their infrastructure, they can still be spaces where aspiring filmmakers come together, watch films, and discuss," he says.

"In a place like Suchitra that has a very good screen and sound system, the impact of watching a film would be much better than watching on a laptop, or mobile phone. I believe that a film is a community viewing experience and when viewed together it has a bigger impact," he argues.

According to Vidyashankar N., artistic director, Bangalore International Film Festival (BIFFes), the culture of film societies started to decline when television started getting popular from the 80s-90s. "Subsequently now with new platforms and digital media network growing, people have greater access to films in their drawing rooms," he says.

Large no. of students

However, he points out that there are a lot of forums today that are screening good films, a lot of youngsters are conducting community viewings, wherever possible, which is sort of a film society movement. "Universities also have film education where a large number of students get to watch films that were earlier accessible only in film societies. Film society does not exist in the same format it used to 30 years ago, but the purpose is being served on different platforms," explains Vidyashankar.

Green Building Congress 2024

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The CII Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) inaugurated the 22nd edition of the Green Building Congress on Thursday. The Congress held at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre.

This year's Green Building Congress 2024 theme was 'Advancing Net Zero in Buildings and Built Environment.'

According to the press release, it is a platform for policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders to collaborate on establishing sustainable building codes, regulations, and industry benchmarks and supports India's commitments to sustainability and carbon reduction, and promoting climate-resilient infrastructure.

The Government of Karnataka is the state partner for the CII IGBC Green Building Congress 2024 and is a leader in sustainable development.

Shepherds, craftspersons to participate in 'Kurubki' event in Bengaluru

The event aims to celebrate the Dakhani pastoral culture and will be organised on the premises of Samagatha Foundation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Shepherds and handicrafts persons from across the State will participate in Kurubki, an exhibition of pastoral life in Bengaluru from November 15 to 17.

The event will feature workshops on weaving, felting, spinning, public talks, film screening on Deccan pastoralism, folklores, literature, musical performance, and a marketplace for woollen products, cuisine, and craft items. The event aims at celebrating the Dakhani pastoral culture and will be organised on the premises of Samagatha foundation on Church Street.

"Shepherds or Kurubas are one of the oldest pastoralist communities in the Deccan plateau. This event aims to highlight the often overlooked voices of the Kurubas and foster broader discourse on pastoralism in the Deccan region, helping us understand ecological and societal importance of pastoralism," Gopikrishna K., one of the organisers, said. The team at Dakhni Diaries has been working with Kurubas for the past few decades.

'This event aims to highlight the often overlooked voices of the Kurubas and foster broader discourse on pastoralism in the Deccan region.' says Gopikrishna K., one of the organisers of the event.

This event is a platform to introduce young artists, designers, conservationists, social workers to the Kuruba community's craft, culture and conservational efforts.

Neelkant Mama, considered the spiritual leader of Kurubas, writer Kotiganahalli Ramaiah, folklore researcher Chandrappa Sobati and others will speak at the inauguration.

Writer Kottiganahalli Ramaiah will release the book *Ratna Pakshi* and *Tagarajogi Thallanagalu* by Chandrappa Sobati on the first day. A photo walkthrough with artist Vivek, a documentary maker and writer, will be held.

Women craftspersons from Kadoli village in Belagavi will exhibit their skills in needle felting, tapestry, weaving, and felting.

They will also teach youngsters basic skills in these arts. Shilpa Mudbi, contemporary artist and co-founder of the Urban Folk Project, will present a musical performance.

On the second day, experts on Deccan pastoralism, anthropologists, researchers and members of the Kuruba community will participate in a panel discussion on Deccan pastoralism. The documentary film *Bhed Chal* by Ankit and Harsh, on the lives of Dakhani shepherds will be shown.

On the third day, Vasu Dixit and Kuruba musicians will present a live folk performance.

On all three days, an exhibition-cum-sale of woollen products, handicrafts, and cuisine of the Dakhani shepherds will be held. Artisans will sell their ware like handwoven rugs, wool products and unique felted wool art. The Centre for pastoralism, Dhakni Diaries, and other associations will jointly organise the event.

For more details, email on dhakniidiaries@gmail. comor call 9008484880 or 9986344436.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 15, 1974

Dairy Farming to Increase Income: Advice to Women

Mangalore, Nov. 15. The need to improve livestock and take care of milch animals to produce more milk was stressed by Mrs. Manorama Madwaraj, Minister of State for Women and Children's Welfare, who inaugurated the new building for the Veterinary Dispensary at Shankaranarayana, 90 km from here on Monday. Mrs. Madhwaraj advised women in the rural areas to take up dairy farming as a supplementary occupation to augment the family income.

She also declared open the artificial insemination sub-centre at Shankaranarayana.

Mr. B. Veera Rajendra Hegde, President, Taluk Development Board, presided.

Suggestion for Wider Use of Library Books

Bangalore, Nov. 15: Dr. B.V. Raghavendra Rao, former President of the Indian Library Association, suggested here to-day the formation of a consortium on a small scale to put the books with the libraries in Bangalore for greater use.

Inaugurating a two-day seminar on 'Library Cooperation in Bangalore, Dr. Rao said that such consortia had already been tried in countries like the United States.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

Once a palace, now a gallery

Jaganmohan Palace, which houses the Jayachamrajendra Art Gallery, known for collections by the Wadiyars, was built in 1861 and served as the residence of the royal family when the old wooden palace was destroyed in a fire. The king at that time was Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV. The gallery contains one of the largest collections of artefacts in South India.

One of the oldest structures in Mysuru

The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya is housed in Wellington Lodge on Irwin Road, which is one of the oldest structures in Mysuru, built in 1799. It is the southern regional centre of the National Museum of Mankind at Bhopal. Apart from terracotta collections, the IGRMS is unique as it introduces different folk art forms to the public.

Lodge and its celebrity tenant

Wellington Lodge housed many distinguished ''tenants'' one of whom was Col. Arthur Wellesley who stayed here from 1799 to 1801. He who went on to become the Duke of Wellington, led the campaign against Napolean Bonaparte of France and defeated him in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. It was the first headquarters of the commissioners in Mysore.

Folk museum with 14,000 artifacts

Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion which houses the Folk Museum was built in 1905 for princess Jayalakshmi Ammani, daughter of Chamaraja Wadiyar. But in 1959, it was acquired by the University of Mysore to house the PG centre. It has a rich collection of over 14,000 folk-related artifacts from across Karnataka. The mansion itself is worth a tour with about 125 rooms.

A major renovation and restoration

The museum underwent a major renovation and restoration in 2020 at a cost of nearly ₹9 crore, after which the visitor numbers have increased by leaps and bounds. The Sri Ranga Pavilion exhibits the royal coach that was used by the Maharanis. The saloon was built in 1914 and is among the more popular attractions

History in objects: Promoting museums as economic drivers for Mysuru

Mysuru, with a population of about 13 lakh to 15 lakh, has no less than a dozen museums and more are in the pipeline to attract more tourists to the city

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

As a city steeped in history and known to be the cultural capital of Karnataka, Mysuru has a slew of museums – both under government and private domain – that document tangible and intangible heritage reflecting art and culture of the region.

As custodians of artefacts belonging to a bygone era, these museums are also cultural institutions that help interpret the past to understand the present.

Built-in advantage

However, in modern times, museums the world over have also emerged as economic drivers of a city as they help propel tourism.

But the moot question is whether these rich collection of exhibits has been harnessed to its full potential to make a meaningful impact on the visitors and also the local economy.

This is important because for a city of the size of Mysuru with a population of about 13 lakh to 15 lakh, there are not less than a dozen museums and more are in the pipeline.

Over a dozen

Among the well-known museums of Mysuru are Jayachamaraja Art Gallery at Jaganmohan Palace, Mysuru Rail Museum, Regional Museum of Natural Heritage, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalay, historical collections at the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, residential museum of the Wadiyars at the Mysuru Palace, Folklore Museum at Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion, Sand Museum, Melody World Wax Museum, Seashell Museum, Chamundeshwari Celebrity Wax Museum, Payana Vintage Car Museum (on the outskirts of Mysuru) and a museum dedicated to late cine star Vishnuvardhan on the Mysuru-Manandavadi Road, to name a few.

Two more are in the offing under the government domain. The State government intends to convert the old DC office which is a heritage building, to a museum under Phase 2 of Swadesh Darshan.

The old DC office itself is one of the important heritage buildings of Mysuru and was built in 1885 and is among the most impressive of the structures in terms of architectural design and aesthetics. Arches and Corinthian Pilasters dominate the façade with wide verandahs and the octagonal dome is topped by a finial.

Though multiple proposals were made in the past – to convert the heritage building to a war museum or to feature the contributions of Mysuru Maharajas, Diwans, and display various documents that underline the administrative reforms taken up during the times of maharajas – there was no clarity on the subject.

Heritage of Kannada

The latest idea stemmed from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah who in his Karnataka Rajyothsava speech in Bengaluru, on November 1, 2024, announced that the old DC office in Mysuru would be converted to a Kannada Museum showcasing the growth and rich heritage of the language.

The scope of the subject being vast, the concept holds exiting possibilities when implemented.

The Department of Archaeology Museums and Heritage also has proposed for a new state-of-the-art and interactive museum in Mysuru.

The place has already been identified and it is a 2-acre plot belonging to the department and close to Chamundi Vihar Stadium. The cost for the DPR, concept development and design has been pegged at Rs.10 crore and has received budgetary approval from the State Government.

While almost all museums are static displays with 'do not touch'' signs prominently displayed to caution the visitors, the proposed new museum will be so designed to encourage visitor interaction and provide them an immersive experience about the exhibits including artefacts that will be on display. The authorities also plan to tie up with private players to harness Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality technologies and to have 3D maps of the historical sites.

Jaganmohan Palace in Mysuru houses the Jayachamarajendra Art Gallery which has an impressive collection of artifacts. M.A. SRIRAM

A view of the Jayachamarajendra Art Gallery at Jaganmohan Palace. M..A. SRIRAM

A collection of vintage cars at Payana Car Museum near Mysuru. M.A. SRIRAM

Wellington Lodge which houses the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalay is one of the oldest buildings in Mysuru. M.A. SRIRAM

The State Archaeology Department has 16 museums in different parts of Karnataka but this displays only a fraction of its rich collection of antiquities spanning many centuries. Hence plans are afoot to showcase coins, arms, sculptures, medallions awarded to soldiers, rare paintings and other antiquities in a thematic manner in the proposed museum.

On electoral participation

Way back in 2021, the Election Commission of India had held a stakeholders' meeting in Mysuru to establish a museum on Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) apart from a capacity building centre.

The proposal for Mysuru was mooted to tap the steady flow of tourists to the city as also its heritage of participatory governance and local representation even before the country had gained independence from the British.

The objective, it was stated then, was to promote stronger democratic values and ethical practices and the role of citizens in this endeavour by creating public or voter awareness. However, nothing has been heard of it since and the concept is still a work in progress.

Among the existing ones, the Jayachamarajendra Art Gallery is the most popular given the slew of collections that include Raja Ravi Varma paintings depicting scenes from Hindu epics and mythology, the portraits of the erstwhile rulers of Mysuru, traditional Mysuru style paintings, Lady with the Lamp by Haldenkar, the durbar hall scenes, giant clocks of vintage era, musical instruments, coins, sculptures, weapons etc.

A sculpture of goddess Saraswathi displayed at the Department of Archaeology Museums and Heritage in Mysuru. M.A. SRIRAM

Development of railways

The Rail Museum which was established in 1979 and was the second in the country at that period after the national rail museum in Delhi, is gaining in popularity in recent years.

It has a rich collection of rail artefacts and yesteryear locomotives, bogies, mechanical contraptions of a bygone era used by the railways, documents showcasing the growth and development of railways in Mysuru region, documentation of evolution of different types of signals etc.

The museum underwent a major renovation and restoration in 2020 at a cost of nearly ₹9 crore, after which the visitor numbers have increased by leaps and bounds. The Sri Ranga Pavilion exhibits the royal coach that was used by the Maharanis. The saloon was built in 1914 and is among the more popular attractions while its counterpart – the Maharaja's saloon – is on display at the National Rail Museum in Delhi. Though efforts were made to bring it back to Mysuru, it was rejected on the grounds that transporting it was fraught with risk of damage. Besides, it was also one of the main attractions at National Rail Museum.

Folk museum

The Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion, which is a heritage building the Mansagangotri campus of the University of Mysore, houses the folklore museum with a rich collection of over 14000 folk-related artifacts from across Karnataka.

The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahayal or IGRMS on the Irwin Road is the southern regional centre of the National Museum of Mankind at Bhopal, and was established in the year 2000. Apart from terracotta collections, the IGRMS is unique as it introduces different folk art forms to the public, conducts art workshop and hands-on training on different crafts to revive them from the brink.

Economic potential

Apart from playing a role in education and dissemination of knowledge, these museums are not only custodians of history and cultural treasures, but preserve for future generations the rich tapestry of art and traditions not only of Mysuru but other places as well.

INBRIEF

Raghu Ramakrishna Raju is A.P. Deputy Speaker

K. Raghu Ramakrishna Raju, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) legislator from Undi constituency, was on Thursday unanimously elected as Deputy Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly as he was the only one in the fray for the post.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan escorted Mr. Ramakrishna Raju onto the Speaker's podium as per the tradition.

'18.2% increase in the number of start-ups in Karnataka'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has witnessed an 18.2% increase in the number of start-ups, rising from 2,568 in 2022 to 3,036 in 2023. This growth has propelled Karnataka to the forefront, now housing 8.7% of India's total start-ups, the highest percentage for any State, said M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development.

In a post on X, he said, ''This growth further solidifies Karnataka's role as a national leader, now accounting for 8.7% of India's total start-ups – the highest of any State."

Karnataka's supportive ecosystem, he wrote, was driven by policy innovation and strategic initiatives. The State also was a preferred launchpad for new ventures, fostering a thriving start-up landscape and reinforcing its reputation as a hub of innovation and opportunity, he said.

''This enduring focus has helped Karnataka attract top talent and significant investments, bolstering its reputation as a hub of innovation and economic opportunity," he claimed.

T.N. doctors end strike after govt. assures them of security

They condemn attack on senior medical oncologist, demand safety measures at hospitals

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

After day-long protests by doctors across the State over the stabbing of an oncologist in Chennai, the Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association (TNGDA) withdrew its indefinite strike on Thursday, following talks with Health Minister Ma. Subramanian.

During the protests to condemn the attack on senior medical oncologist Balaji Jegannathan at the Kalaignar Centenary Super Specialty Hospital (KCSSH) on Wednesday, they demanded safety and security measures on hospital premises.

With the Indian Medical Association-Tamil Nadu State Branch also taking part in a 24-hour strike from 6 p.m. on Wednesday, outpatient services and elective surgeries were suspended at many government and private hospitals.

Outrage over attack: Doctors staging a protest at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Order issued

In a statement, TNGDA president K. Senthil said an order on security measures was issued by the Directorate of Medical Education, and the Minister promised to review the measures after a month.

In Chennai, doctors of the Federation of Government Doctors Association (FOGDA) staged a demonstration at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH).

P. Balakrishnan, State convenor, FOGDA, demanded that armed police personnel be deployed at government hospitals, and hospitals be declared safe zones with two-tier security in place.

Doctors affiliated to the TNGDA, Chennai district, wore black badges to work and conducted a peaceful demonstration at RGGGH.

CPI(M) leader Jayarajan alleges conspiracy, denies hiring any publisher, ghost writer

The Hindu Bureau
PALAKKAD

CPI(M) central committee member E.P. Jayarajan said here on Thursday that he had not entrusted anyone to publish his autobiography. But he said he was working on his personal chronicle and it would be published soon.

Mr. Jayarajan told mediapersons that he had not hired any ghost writer for the job. "I continue to work on my autobiography, and haven't entrusted anyone to publish it," he said.

Denying what was published and aired by the media was from his biography, Mr. Jayarajan said he had registered a complaint with the State Police Chief.

He said that there was a conspiracy behind the media reports. "The publication of the materials against me on the day of the bypoll was preplanned, and there was a conspiracy behind it," he said. He said it was not the first time. His meeting with BJP spokesperson Prakash Javadekar had also appeared in the media on the day of the elections.

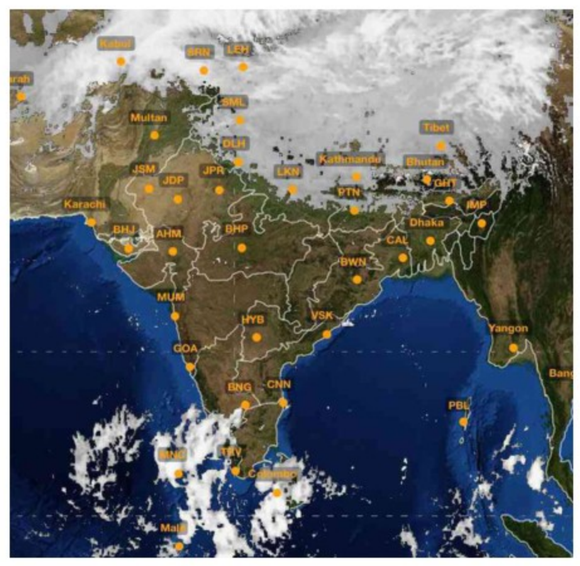
Mr. Jayarajan said he had the right to publish his autobiography, and the party's permission would be obtained before publishing it.

Publication of some sensational parts of his autobiography by a section of the media had triggered a controversy, forcing Mr. Jayarajan and his party to be on the defensive. The CPI(M) leader had allegedly referred negatively to LDF candidate in Palakkad P. Sarin.

Mr. Jayarajan asked the media if they thought he would give such a name to his autobiography as *Kattan chaayayum, parippu vadayum*'. "Is it not self-deprecatory," he asked.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Karnataka. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Karaikal and Kerala. Dense fog conditions likely in isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Bihar and Jharkhand

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.0	19.4	Kozhikode	—	35.6	26.6
Ahmedabad	—	34.4	20.8	Kurnool	—	31.8	24.1
Aizawl	—	33.9	17.1	Lucknow	—	31.6	16.6
Allahabad	—	33.0	16.6	Madurai	—	34.0	24.2
Bengaluru	—	27.0	21.2	Mangaluru	—	35.0	25.4
Bhopal	—	31.0	15.0	Mumbai	—	36.0	19.0
Bhubaneswar	—	32.0	21.9	Mysuru	—	31.0	21.4
Chandigarh	—	26.0	14.6	New Delhi	—	29.4	16.1
Chennai	0.7	30.5	25.7	Patna	—	31.0	20.1
Coimbatore	18	31.2	23.0	Port Blair	—	31.0	26.3
Dehradun	—	28.2	13.3	Puducherry	10	29.2	24.4
Gangtok	—	17.8	11.7	Pune	—	33.5	19.1
Goa	—	35.0	26.0	Raipur	—	32.3	18.8
Guwahati	—	31.0	19.5	Ranchi	—	28.0	15.5
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shillong	—	22.0	11.0
Hyderabad	—	30.8	23.2	Shimla	—	19.4	9.8
Imphal	—	28.3	11.6	Srinagar	—	16.0	7.6
Jaipur	—	32.0	19.2	Thiruvananthapuram	7	32.6	24.8
Kochi	0.6	31.0	26.4	Tiruchi	—	30.0	25.0
Kohima	—	26.1	9.5	Vijayawada	—	32.4	24.4
Kolkata	—	30.5	22.0	Visakhapatnam	—	30.1	26.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	43	.33	231	159	
Bengaluru	.17	32	.58	50	45	
Chennai	.15	30	.45	76	73	
Delhi	.16	110	114	452	426	
Hyderabad	6	96	.59	93	149	
Kolkata	.18	33	.33	290	197	
Lucknow	8	42	.87	326	272	
Mumbai	7	140	.38	145	145	
Pune	6	69	.30	196	134	
Visakhapatnam	.11	38	.20	87	86	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m.,Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 424 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ariyalur,Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Lenin Center, Governerpet, Vijayawada - 520002 (A.P.)

E PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 13/MAU61-ADMN0STG/2/2024-STG,Dt.14/11/2024

Name of Work: APCRDA - "Request for Proposal (RFP) to engage Programme Management Consultant (PgMC) for Developmental works/Activities of the APCRDA. The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal **from 15.11.2024 to 07.12.2024 up to 14.00 Hrs.** Due date for submission of Bid is **07.12.2024 up to 15.00 Hrs, Technical bid opening 07.12.2024 @16.00 Hrs.** For further details Please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **www.crda.ap.gov.in** .

Sd/-Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada

Ministry of Culture Government of India

VISVESVARAYA INDUSTRIAL & TECHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM
(a unit of National Council of Science Museums)
Kasturba Road, Bengaluru-560 001

Advertisement No.:09/2024

Applications are invited within 02.12.2024 from eligible candidates having teaching/research/industry background for engagement as **Junior Mentor at Innovation Hub of Visvesvaraya Industrial & Technological Museum, Bengaluru** on a monthly consolidated remuneration of **Rs. 37,000/- for a period one year,** further extendable on mutually agreed terms subject to satisfactory performance. For eligibility criteria and other details, please refer to our website **www.vismuseum.gov.in** The Director, VITM reserves the right to cancel the engagement process at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my Client is intends to purchase an immoveable property being Residential Vacant Site more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from **SMT.BHARATI S. KATTIMANI ALIAS BHARATI BENDIGERI,** aged about 60 years, D/o Sri. Chandrakant C. Bendigeri and W/o Sri. Suryanarayan Kattimani, residing at # 101, Sri Sai Subha Mangala Apartment, Lingarajnagar, Beside Katti Mangalamma Temple, Hubli Engineering Post, Hubli, Dharwad Dist. Pin: 580031. If any person/s has/have any right, title, interest or claim on the below mentioned Schedule Property, they may file their objections with the undersigned along with documentary proof **WITHIN 15 (FIFTEEN) DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which my Client will proceed to complete the sale transaction as the same is free from all encumbrances/ claims. Any objections received thereafter shall not be entertained/ considered.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential Site/Property bearing **Site No.419, in Bhavani Nagar Layout II Stage, in converted Sy.No.75, 76,78 and 106/2 of Mallathahalli Village, Yeshwanthapur Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk formed by Railway mens House Building Co-operative Society Ltd.,** and presently comes within the limits of **Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.129** of Jnanabharathi Ward, now known and identified as **# 419, 10th Main, Bhavani Nagar Layout II Stage, Railway Layout, Mallathhalli Bengaluru-560 056,** measuring East to West: **40-0 feet** and North to South: **30-0' feet** totally measuring **1200-0 Square feet** together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:-

East by : Road,
West by : SiteNo.422
North by : Site No.419-A,
South by : Site No.418.

(U.L.SOMAPPA) Advocate & Notary
 # 708/41, Upstairs, Sree Ramanjaneya Road Srinagar, Bangalore-560050.
(M) 94480 50108, 98806 14954
Bangalore Date : 15-11-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am issuing this public notice under the instructions of my client **MRS.SUSHMA.R.GOWDA, W/o Mr. Pramod.K.Hagadur,** AADHAR NO.3843 9000 6590, intends to purchase the schedule property from **SRI.K.PRASAD, S/o Late K.Ramanjaneyulu,** AADHAR NO.9036 9362 4552. This notice is hereby given for the information of General public that, earlier owner of the schedule property Sri.D.V.Raghunandan, had lost original had lost original Allotment Letter, dated: 28/11/1972, Original Memo, dated: 03/03/1975, bearing P.R.No.314/74-75, Original Absolute Sale Deed, dated: 06/01/1989, executed by the BDA in favour of **Sri.T. Thirumalaiah,** vide Doc.No.3552/1988-89 and Absolute Sale Deed, dated: 17/06/1994/21/06/1994, executed by **Sri.T.Thirumalaiah** in favour of Smt.Uma.N.Konanur, Vide Doc.No.819/1994-95, with respect to Property bearing Municipal No.1712 (CITB No.1712, PID No.56-75-1712, Situated at 14th Main, Banashankari Second Stage Extension, Bangalore), Measuring : 60x40 feet, in all admeasuring **2400 Sq.feet,** at about 5.00 p.m. while travelling to advocate office at Cubbonpet, hence he lodged Lost Article Report bearing No.062327/2021, u/s 155 CrPC before the jurisdictional police station and issued Public Notice, dated: 05/03/2021, issued in The New Indian Express and in Hosa Digantha, daily newspaper. Further hereby informing that the said document is not traceable. For brevity of said deed/documents as state supra, I am issuing this public notice. If any body found the said document, the same may be handed over at the below mentioned address.

Mrs.Manjula Shivukumar, Advocate
No. C-1, 1st Floor, Maruthi Pearl Plaza, D.V.G. Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. Mob: 9945027091.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my client **Sri. Muthyala Venkateswara Rao S/o Sri.Ramaiah, Aged about 42 years** has negotiated to purchase in the below mentioned **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** from **Sri. V.M.Chand Pasha S/o Late V.M. Abdul Reham, Aged about 64 years,** If any person/s or Institution, Authority etc., have got any objections or claiming any right, title and interest of what so ever nature on the Schedule Property, are hereby required to communicate the same along with supporting documents to me at my Office within **(15) Fifteen days** from this day. Otherwise, the Sale transaction will be completed without any reference or regard to any such purported claim or interest, which shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents and purposes.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No.18 and 19,** VP Katha No.100/1, Situated at **Hongansandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru,** measuring **East to West 30 Feet and North to South 96 Feet, in total measuring about 2880 Sq Feet** and bounded on:

East by : Site No. 16 & 17
West by : Site No. 20 and 21
North by : Road
South by : Private Sites

Address for Service:-
Shree Advocates and Associates
No. 16, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, A Cross, Chinamma Layout, Madiwala, Bengaluru 560068. Phone No. 08040989046, 9663864500

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
BRUTANG AND HADUA IRRIGATION PROJECT, DASAPALLA AT-TRINATH BAZAR, P.O-DASAPALLA, DIST- NAYAGAR, Pin-752084
e-Mail:ccebhip@gmail.com, Telephone No-06757-220855
Bid Identification No. **BHIP-HID-UGPL-01 of 2024-25**
(e-procurement No-CCE-HID-01/2024-25)

No.334 **NOTICE INVITING TENDER** **Dated: 07-11-2024**

The Chief Construction Engineer, Brutang and Hadua Irrigation Project, Dasapalla on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites online EPC Contract in double cover system through e- procurement for the work mentioned below:

Name of Work	Class/EMD/Tender Fee/Period of completion.
Construction of Under Ground Pipeline System of Hadua Irrigation Project, Narasinghpur in District of Cuttack, Odisha including its distribution network, up to 1 Ha Chak with Outlet management System having total planned Culturable Command Area of 3641 Ha to supply irrigation water from Hadua Dam with provision for booster pump on EPC mode of contract (Turn Key Basis) including power connectivity, Electro-Mechanical components, PIM and operation & maintenance of complete commissioned system for 5 years.	**(1) Class**-'Super' class or equivalent class of Bidders. **(2) EMD-Rs.1,67,76,400/-(Rupees One crore sixty seven lakhs seventy six thousand four hundred) only** **(3)** The approximate value of work put to tender is **Rs.167.76 crores** (excluding GST) **(Rupees One sixty seven crores and seventy six lakhs) only** **(4) Tender Fee-Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand) only** to be transferred online (Non-Refundable) by Online mode. **(5) Period of Completion**-24(Twenty four) calendar months including rainy season

A.	Period of completion	24 (Twenty four) calendar months
B.	Date & Time of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal	Dt.18.11.2024 from 10.00 AM to Dt.13.12.2024 upto 5.00PM
C.	Period of Sale of Bidding Document	26 days
D.	Time and Date for Pre-Bid Conference	Dt. 25.11.2024 at 11.30 AM Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Brutang and Hadua Irrigation Project, Dasapalla. (Virtual Mode, the link will be shared through e-mail)
E.	Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids	Dt.13.12.2024 upto 5.00 PM
F.	Place of Sale, Receipt of Bids	On-Line Through e-Procurement.
G.	Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bid	Dt.16.12.2024 at 11.00 AM **(If the opening date happens to be holiday or declared holiday, opening will be done in the next working day)**
H.	Place of Opening of Bids	Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Brutang and Hadua Irrigation Project, Dasapalla, Pin-752084
I.	Further details can be seen from e-procurement portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**	

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer,
Brutang & Hadua Irrigation Project, Dasapalla

A-556 OIPR-32535/11/0001/2425

A BG-BGE

Razing impunity

Supreme Court's intervention may end arbitrary and targeted demolitions

Demolition of property as a punitive measure against alleged offenders amounts to wilful subversion of the rule of law. The bulldozer has emerged as a symbol of the state's eagerness to inflict collective punishment in recent times. Many such demolitions, cheered on one side by Hindutva proponents and passed off as removal of encroachments on the other by the government machinery, demonstrated a pattern in which a spell of communal tension was followed by the deployment of bulldozers and excavators. The Supreme Court of India has now ventured to put an end to this culture of impunity by laying down enforceable guidelines and directions to prevent demolition of homes and buildings without following due process. The verdict addresses issues that arose from the spurt in demolitions, beginning with Khargone in Madhya Pradesh and Jahangirpuri in Delhi in 2022, and several other places over the last two years. The Bench has recognised the obvious link between the fact that these homes and buildings belonged to those accused of offences that took place immediately before the demolition drive. It has ruled that this has a bearing on the rule of law and on the principle of separation of powers, as any such punitive use of the law against those accused or guilty of a crime amounts to executive authorities taking over a penal function. It also underpinned its order on the right to shelter, which stands breached, as the practice often unfairly targets family members of those allegedly involved.

The process laid down by the Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan rightly seeks to ensure public accessibility of details regarding such demolitions and aims to prevent unscrupulous officials from backdating notices to create the impression that they were merely following up on previous eviction notices. The order calls for 15 days' notice, served on the owner by registered post, containing details of the violations as well as the grounds for the action to be taken. A personal hearing, a reasoned order and an inspection report signed by witnesses have also been made mandatory. The authorities should designate a digital portal within three months, where these notices, replies and orders will be uploaded. What is additionally significant is that the Court has decided to make officials accountable for any violations, effectively preventing attempts to backdate notices. The order exempts necessary demolition of encroachments such as those on waterbodies, railway lines and public spaces from this process. It is now up to the local body authorities to both adhere to the guidelines and ensure compliance, leaving little scope for politically motivated and communally targeted demolitions.

Saving doctors

Lives of medical professionals should not be at risk from patients

Violence, like poetry, is often the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings; but, unlike poetry, it is always ugly and, in most cases, self-destructive. While violence against members of the medical community is not new, more recently, cases have been rising with an eerie regularity. The recent case from Tamil Nadu where a doctor was stabbed multiple times by a patient's relative was dastardly and chilling. Balaji Jegannathan, an oncologist at the State-run Kalaignar Centenary Super Specialty Hospital (KCSSH), was stabbed by Vignesh, a young man whose mother was undergoing treatment for Hodgkin lymphoma, in the hospital. Contrary to initial media reports that the attack was perpetrated in a fit of rage, the fact that Vignesh brought a knife to a hospital makes it clear that it was premeditated. Notably, the patient, his mother, and her family had been counselled about the possible side effects of the chemotherapy that she was undergoing. She had also been admitted in a couple of private hospitals, but Vignesh had discharged her against medical advice, bringing her back to the KCSSH. He was furious about the treatment given to his mother, since her lungs had been affected as a result of the chemotherapy, and lashed out at the doctor, holding him responsible for his mother's suffering. The life of Dr. Balaji, who was on blood thinners for a previous cardiac condition, was saved only because he was in a super specialty medical institution where top surgeons serve, and therefore with access to the best care.

Violence on health-care professionals is as abhorrent as is negligence on their part. In a question of life and death, inflamed passions are possible, but it cannot be tolerated when frustration and fear of an impending decline in health or death lead to acts of violence against those who implement the treatment. It is important for doctors to display a good bedside manner, explaining to the patients and their family about the possible outcomes of treating a disease. In this case, notably, even this was communicated at all hospitals the patient had been in. While doctors struck work for a day in protest in the State, memories of the recent R.G. Kar rape and murder of a young doctor have compounded unrest among them. While human emotions under stress fall in the zone of the unpredictable, the presence of deterrence in health-care institutions – baggage scanners, CCTV monitoring, security checks, the obvious presence of security personnel – is the only way of ensuring that doctors remain safe.

A 2024 election result that leaves many astounded

Shelley Walia

taught Cultural Theory at Panjab University, Chandigarh

"Since Plato's Republic 2,300 years ago, philosophers have understood the process by which demagogues come to power in free and fair elections, only to overthrow democracy and establish tyrannical rule. The process is straightforward, and we have now just watched it play out." – Jason Stanley, 'The End of US Democracy Was All Too Predictable'.

India and the United States, two of the world's most prominent democracies, are facing significant challenges. India, despite being the most populous democracy, struggles with systemic issues that hinder its ability to function fairly and freely.

On the other hand, the U.S., the most prosperous democracy, guarantees its citizens life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, but still grapples with issues of race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation that undermine the true spirit of democracy. The recent U.S. presidential election has clearly exposed democracy's vulnerabilities, sparking concerns about its effectiveness when voters choose leaders with tainted records.

Breaking down the voter demographic

Donald Trump's polarising personality may have captured the headlines, but it is the American electorate that has propelled him to victory. According to Pew Research Center, white voters without a bachelor's degree were more likely to associate with the Republican Party, with 63% identifying as Republicans. In comparison, 33% would align with the Democratic Party. This educational divide has become more pronounced over the past two decades, with white voters without a college degree favouring the Republican Party and those with a college degree moving toward the Democratic Party.

Mr. Trump's 2024 presidential campaign visibly resonated with millions, securing him another term in office. This outcome can be attributed to several factors, including his ability of creating a multi-ethnic working-class coalition, which proved successful as he made strides among Latinos and African-Americans, especially men. This raises important questions about the values and the priorities of the American people, and whether they are willing to overlook Mr. Trump's controversies in favour of his policy agenda.

The stakes of the 2024 U.S. election could not be higher, especially its make-or-break moment for American democracy. Trump's return to power has sent jitters across the globe, and for good reason. Many countries are anxious about the potential implications of his presidency, particularly when it comes to international relations and global stability. Within the U.S., non-white minorities, legal settlers, African-Americans, and undocumented immigrants are bracing themselves for the impact of hard right-wing policies driven by nationalist sentiment. The uncertainty surrounding the citizenship status of newborn children is a significant concern. The potential consequences of his presidency on global relations, domestic policy, and marginalised communities are indeed significant.

> Donald Trump's rise to prominence highlights a democratic flaw — the absence of a socially aware and informed electorate that focuses on the greater good

Authoritarian rise

Moreover, we are witnessing a disturbing global trend where even robust democracies are buckling under authoritarian pressure. Hungary, once a beacon of democratic success in the post-Communist world, has evolved into the European Union's sole absolutism in just over a decade. Countries such as Turkey, Israel, or South Asian democracies have seen authoritarian tendencies rise over the years; 37 out of 104 democracies worldwide have experienced significant relapse since 2016. The red flags are clear: wearing away of democratic institutions, manipulation of information, and the rise of acrimonious politics. Experts warn that democratic decline is often incremental, with autocratic leaders exploiting democratic institutions to consolidate power.

Bertram Gross, a former presidential adviser, ominously warned, "As I look at America today, I am not afraid to say that I am afraid." His concern stems from America's alarming drift towards authoritarianism, fuelled by a deeply divided and distracted citizenry. The "Deep State" strategists have subtly erected the framework for tyranny, leveraging militarised law enforcement and bureaucratic red tapism. This alarming drift has persisted across the last five decades, outdoing party lines. Though this renders the resident of the White House relatively insignificant, there is a growing concern about the potential consequences of Mr. Trump's return.

Given his past actions, campaign promises, and the Supreme Court's decisions effectively granting him legal immunity, many fear his administration would target liberal democracy's core principles without any culpability. The Republican Party, the Senate, the House of Representatives and the judiciary are now in his firm grip, thereby cementing a G.O.P. trifecta. This could lead to a concentration of power and diminished checks on Mr. Trump's actions. The question to ask is: Will the U.S. follow Hungary's path, or will it find a way to strengthen its democratic foundations? The 2024 election, which seemed to be a pivotal moment in determining the answer, has left many astounded by the result.

Mr. Trump's statements and policy documents, including Project 2025, reveal a systematic plan of a demagogue to transform the government into an extension of his personal will, emulating the authoritarian approach of Hungarian leader Viktor Orbán. A key proposal is the revival of Mr. Trump's Schedule F order, which would allow the firing of about 50,000 career civil servants, undermining the merit-based civil service system. This move would grant Mr. Trump unprecedented control over the bureaucracy, enabling him to replace nonpartisan civil servants with loyalists. The stakes are high, as politicising the civil service would hinder essential government functions that millions rely on, thereby paving the way for autocracy. His plans would degrade federal employment, and potentially lead to bullying tactics by hounding the minorities that he has throughout dehumanised or ruthlessly penalised those who have been his antagonists. With Mr. Trump's team prepared to implement these changes swiftly, the consequences for democracy and the civil service are alarming.

A message for the democratic world

As is obvious from the election outcome, Mr. Trump's enduring grip on the American right is a phenomenon that has puzzled observers for nearly a decade. Despite the turmoil and the controversy surrounding his first term, culminating in his refusal to concede the 2020 election, Mr. Trump remained a formidable force throughout the current election. His unwavering appeal can be attributed to various factors, including his unapologetic stance on key issues. His campaign has consistently emphasised a "return" to fossil fuel dominance, pledging to boost oil and natural gas production, and roll back environmental regulations. This is broadly appreciated by voters seeking energy, independence and job creation.

To improve democracy's effectiveness, it is essential to address challenges and ensure that democratic governments prioritise citizens' welfare, equality, and accountability. The 2024 U.S. presidential election, particularly the Trump campaign, highlights his divisive rhetoric and policies that seem to have resonated with a specific demographic: disgruntled, underemployed or unemployed, and undereducated white males who feel threatened by immigration and societal shifts. Mr. Trump's popularity reveals a desire among many Americans for a homogeneous world order rooted in whiteness, bigotry, misogyny, and heterosexuality. Despite his pomposity, he has tapped into deep-seated anxieties and frustrations among certain segments of the population. His message of economic nationalism, immigration reform, and an "America First" rhetoric has struck a chord with many who feel left behind by globalisation and cultural shifts. A political landscape driven by contentious magniloquence has led many to feel that democracy under him will fail to deliver on its promise of inclusivity, equality, and protection for all citizens, regardless of race, colour, gender, or creed.

Donald Trump's rise to prominence exposes a concerning truth: many voters, particularly the mindless uneducated lot, may not fully understand the responsibilities of democratic citizenship or the risks of electing an unqualified leader, thereby emphasising that democracy as an idea might be flawed. This highlights the need for a socially aware and civically informed electorate, willing to look beyond personal biases and prioritise the greater good. It is time the American public saw the importance of reining in their runaway government, reclaiming their freedoms, and restoring justice in America.

Leverage similarity, complementarity in Nigeria

Mahesh Sachdev

former Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria and the author of the book, 'Nigeria: A Business Manual'

On November 16-17, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Nigeria, Africa's most populous country and second largest economy. Though on his first visit to that country, he may still find it familiar: from Airtel to Bajaj, Bollywood to Cipla and TVS to Tata, India is ubiquitous in Nigeria. Thanks to a shared Commonwealth legacy and similar challenges, the two multi-ethnic, large developing democracies face identical issues: improved governance, socio-economic development, terrorism and corruption. At the same time, they have complementarity in such strategic areas as hydrocarbons, defence, institution building, health care and education. Leveraging this milieu of similarity and complementarity can catapult the Abuja Summit from "successful" to "historic".

Substantive assets on the ground are available for this endeavour. There are more than 150 Indian companies with footprints in Nigeria with investments estimated at $27 billion. With bilateral trade at $7.9 billion, India is Nigeria's second largest trading partner. Nearly 50,000 Indians in Nigeria, the largest *Oyibo* (non-African) group in the country are well regarded for their low profile, professionalism and integrity. Nigerians flock to India for trade, medical treatment and education.

India's hard and soft power in Nigeria might look impressive, but it has lost ground over the past decade. The bilateral trade is half its peak a decade ago when India was Nigeria's largest trading partner. Despite being the top buyer of Nigerian crude, India has no upstream assets there. There are multiple reasons behind this stagnancy. To begin with, a more effective and comprehensive framework is indispensable for bilateral renewal and upgrading through frequent contacts. The Prime Minister's visit takes place after 17 years and the last meeting of the bilateral joint commission, this year, was after 13 years. Nigeria is too big and important a partner for India to channel its development assistance multilaterally through the African Union. India also needs to better leverage the local Indian diaspora, Nigeria's second-largest employer. The two vibrant private sectors should be better empowered through a platform, preferably with financial and underpinning. With foresight and a judicious mix of ambition and sensitivity, India and Nigeria can forge a win-win synergy.

> India's hard and soft power in Nigeria might look impressive, but much ground has been lost over the past decade

Nigeria, which is currently facing several economic and security headwinds, is looking for friends such as India for help. Since coming to power in 2023, President Bola Tinubu has acted with political courage. Unlike most of his predecessors who merely kicked the can of worms down the road, he has confronted long-standing national challenges. The measures taken include withdrawing petroleum subsidies costing $10 billion annually, freeing the national currency, the Naira, of controls (leading to a steep depreciation and 32% annual inflation), and dismissing several functionaries including the Central Bank Governor, Head of Secret Service and military brass. These have upended the economy and caused public disaffection. In a recent speech, President Tinubu defended these stiff measures as necessary for national rejuvenation and assured the public that the worst was over.

Where India could help

Despite the current eco-political conundrum, Nigeria retains its long-term attractiveness for India as a major hydrocarbon supplier, a large market with physical and social infrastructure deficit, and growth potential. While its occasionally stained reputation calls for due diligence and caution, macro-economic management is quite competent and the sovereign commitments are upheld.

The Nigerian leadership has high expectations from the Modi visit. Among its top concerns is upgrading its defence and security services to meet the terrorism and economic anarchy-related challenges such as Boko Haram, oil bunkering, Gulf of Guinea piracy, and a turbulent neighbourhood. Having overcome similar challenges at home, India is well experienced and equipped to help Nigeria through a comprehensive package of defence supplies, training, and remote sensing. This can, in turn, boost India's defence exports and revive bilateral defence ties epitomised by seven Nigerian Presidents since independence in 1960 being trained in India as defence officers.

An equally urgent Nigerian requirement would be to seek India's help for economic stabilisation as it faces a critical foreign exchange shortage. India could best do so through some strategic initiatives such as partnerships for upstream hydrocarbons and infrastructure, a bilateral comprehensive economic partnership agreement and large financial facilitation through lines of credit and barter arrangements. India can provide the Nigerian requirements of petroleum products, foodstuffs (rice, wheat, milk powder), consumer goods, pharmaceuticals, compressed natural gas conversion kits, textiles and garments, agricultural inputs, and power equipment. The possibility of rupee-based trade can also be put on the table. Other complementarities to be leveraged would include importing palm oil, hides and skins, ginger, and Gum Arabic. Such moves would arrest the 29.7% year-on-year decline in India's exports in 2023-24 to $3.6 billion. Moreover, it would help locate other drivers for bilateral trade as India now buys less Nigerian crude. Though less tangible, India's services exports in areas such as Information Technology (IT) and IT-enabled services, banking, financial services and insurance, health care, skilling and education also deserve support.

Half a millennium of shared history

A less-known but interesting historical snippet is about the first direct bilateral contact. A hazy legend traces it to the arrival around 1500 AD of Baba Ghor, a gem merchant from Kano (now in northern Nigeria) who settled down in Ratanpur in Gujarat. He is still revered as a saint and for devising a method to polish agate stones. We need a similar impetus today to make the natural bilateral ties more lustrous.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A halt to 'bulldozer justice'

Though belated, it is appreciable that the Supreme Court of India has banned the draconian 'bulldozer form of justice'. One wonders why the judiciary waited for so long and even after reasonable thinking people raised a hue and cry over such brutality (Page 1, "SC puts brakes on 'bulldozer culture'," November 14).

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

The much heralded bulldozer raj was a byword for lawlessness and anarchy. When Chief Ministers behave like feudal lords, it strikes at the root of democracy and trivialises the criminal justice system.

Abdul Assis P.A.,
Kandassankadavu, Kerala

Hospital incident

The incident in Chennai, where a doctor was stabbed, shows the many dangers staff face. Security checks should be in place.

S. Sankaranarayanan,
Chennai

Should India continue to boycott cricket in Pakistan?

PARLEY

Sharda Ugra

Sports journalist with more than three decades of experience across newsrooms at The Hindu, MidDay, India Today, and Espncricinfo

Sunil Yajaman

Joint Secretary, Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association, and former manager of the Indian Davis Cup side that travelled to Pakistan in February

Last Saturday, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officially communicated to the International Cricket Council (ICC) its decision to not send a team for the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy to be held in Pakistan from February 19 to March 9. Global cricket is returning to Pakistan for the first time in nearly three decades, and the nation had hoped that India would make the trip across the border. But despite being assured of foolproof security and given a choice of venues, as well as the slight goodwill generated from External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's journey to Islamabad last month for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Council of Heads of Government meeting, India has decided not to travel. The BCCI prefers a hybrid model under which India will play all its matches outside Pakistan, an idea that the host is firmly against. Should India continue to boycott cricket in Pakistan? Sharda Ugra and Sunil Yajaman discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **N. Sudarshan**. Edited excerpts:

Should India have travelled to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy, especially given that Pakistan visited India for the World Cup in 2023?

Sharda Ugra: It would have been great if the gesture was reciprocated, but 'India versus Pakistan' is rarely about sporting logic or fairness. Political events overtake even the best of intentions. The cricketing ties between the two countries are fractured and the Indian cricket establishment treated Pakistan in a hostile manner at the 2023 World Cup. But even if all these [incidents] had not been there, political events have always caught up, and that is what has happened.

Sunil Yajaman: Probably they [Indian team] should have tried [to go to Pakistan], especially since Pakistan travelled to India. Somewhere we have to keep some ties going and sport has to be above politics. But if it is a security issue, I would not comment on that. India is ready to play Pakistan elsewhere, right? At a neutral venue? Pakistan also came here. So it is definitely not about not wanting to have sporting ties.

Pakistan did not host any international cricket for 10 years after the terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team in 2009. But since then, Australia, England, Sri Lanka, New Zealand have all visited Pakistan. Is India justified in seeking an exemption?

SY: I don't know in what context India has refused to travel [to Pakistan]. If it is just about security, it is best left to the two governments. But otherwise, sports should go on. India even played the Davis Cup in Pakistan early this year [February] after 60 years. These are contests between the two countries, yes, but within the realm of sports. In all fairness, we should have nothing to do with politics.

It would be unfair to compare India's relationship with Pakistan with the ties other countries have with the country. But somewhere, we could have tried. There was a lot of scepticism ahead of the Davis Cup too. But ultimately, it went off well.

Sachin Tendulkar and Navjot Singh Sidhu cross for a quick single as the bowler, Aaqib Javed, looks on during a quarterfinal match between India and Pakistan in the 1996 Cricket World Cup, in Bangalore. V.V. KRISHNAN

SU: Concerns about security are fair if the BCCI had dealt with all the other issues in a calm and logical manner. But I am afraid we are beyond that stage of talking. What is missing in this space is actually the Indian cricket board's ability to deal with the Pakistan cricket board in the spirit of fraternity and wanting the best for cricket. You can't help it if politics catches up, but it is a sense of fellow feeling that is absent. It is a position that India cannot bring itself to take for reasons beyond cricket.

India co-hosted the 1996 World Cup with Pakistan and Sri Lanka and the final was played in Lahore...

SU: Yes. In 1996, a joint India-Pakistan XI played a match [ahead of the World Cup]. It was not like there were no wars, no hostility, and no political pressure before. That sense of belonging to the same space has disappeared. It feels like they [Indian cricket establishment] are bigger than that and their money is bigger than that.

India travelled to Pakistan for the Davis Cup (tennis), and Pakistan came to India for the SAFF Cup (football) last year. Is it fair for different sports to have different rules?

> All the other teams, be it tennis or blind cricket, are going [to Pakistan]. I accept that for cricketers to travel is different: they are bigger international stars and the stakes are higher. So, possibly, there is security fear. But the sentiment should be the same towards all sports.
>
> **SUNIL YAJAMAN**

SY: All the other teams, be it tennis or blind cricket, are going [to Pakistan]. I accept that for cricketers to travel is different: they are bigger international stars and the stakes are higher. So, possibly, there is security fear. But I feel that the sentiment should be the same towards all sports.

SU: Cricket has become emotional currency in both countries. In India, it is amplified – how we present the sport, talk about it, look at it on TV, and also how it is commentated on. Why will they [cricket establishment] dial down on that if it fetches TRPs and ad revenue?

It is hypocritical to see other teams travelling across the border. But look at the environment that has been built around 'India versus Pakistan'. It has been made impossible to treat cricket as a sport.

Is it possible to not let geopolitical tensions percolate into the sporting arena? And when they do, to what extent can you limit it?

SU: It is not in our power to allow or disallow this. We have to accept it, simply because of the two countries' history. The only way it can get better is if you disconnect cricket from hyper nationalism, but how is that going to happen if it is the biggest sport in both countries?

About this hybrid model that is being spoken about... I feel it is a great idea. Obviously, Pakistan is agitated, but nobody is saying 'let's find a way to play'. At one point, we had Saurav Ganguly and Ramiz Raja, two Test captains, heading their cricket boards, but we didn't hear of any attempt to at least find a neutral ground and play. That is sad.

Mr. Yajaman, how was your experience travelling to Pakistan for the Davis Cup?

SY: We were welcomed and Pakistan went out of its way to ensure that we were safe and comfortable. Hats off to them. For me, it was the second time in Pakistan. The first was in 2008 for two weeks of the ITF women's tournament. When we were there, the Mumbai terror attacks happened. But we never felt any threat. In fact, people were quite sympathetic. I am talking about the general public and those in the tennis circles. So, this time, when we had to travel to Islamabad, I was absolutely fine because I know that the people are nice there. The security we got was unprecedented. They announced that we were like State guests. One of the main reasons Pakistan did that was to convey to India, 'We can take care of you. Please come and play here'. They were so happy. Outside the tennis courts, players such as Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and our players are great friends.

Do you feel the athletes, despite the camaraderie, are no longer stakeholders in this grand saga?

SY: The players will feel that loss of camaraderie. They would love to go to each others' countries and spend time outside the field and have some fun. Players like Virat Kohli and M.S. Dhoni... Everybody in Pakistan talks about them. They are probably as popular as the Pakistan players.

Moving forward, it would be good for the two countries [to restart ties] in music, sports, and arts. But I would re-emphasise that if the government feels there is a security threat, then it is different. But it will be great to continue sporting ties. Will India not travelling to Pakistan help that?

In a fantastic co-incidence, the Indian men's team has met Pakistan in every Champions Trophy, World T20, and ODI World Cup from 2013. The tie is a major money-spinner for ICC. In a scenario where the global custodian of the sport has a genuine financial interest in an India-Pakistan fixture, can it be expected to act impartially?

SU: I call it 'Group Cooking'. In the FIFA World Cup, there is no compulsory match between Brazil and Argentina, right? Here it is like: 'no, our money will collapse'. Then maybe the marketing department is not working properly because the sport is terrific and there is talent everywhere. It is a very big sporting contest. But can we make it a level playing field? All that cricket talks about is 'it generated so much money and revenue'. This demeans the actual sporting contest. The ICC doesn't seem to have the administrative bandwidth to think 'what if an India-Pakistan match doesn't happen? What are the numbers we are looking at?' Will people stop watching the World Cup if India and Pakistan do not play each other? It is like the ICC is in a bad relationship; it has been abused by India-Pakistan and it cannot find a way out.

NOTEBOOK

The contrast between the U.S. and India on counting day

The Indian model of providing electoral results via the Election Commission works much better than the American one

Srinivasan Ramani

Donald Trump has returned to power in the United States following a decisive win in both the popular vote and electoral college vote in the presidential elections. This emphatic win made it easy for journalists to cover the results. It was clear fairly early during the counting process that Mr. Trump was going to win the election and also sweep the 'swing States'.

This is in marked contrast to the 2020 election, which was full of controversies, both manufactured and real. A staggering number of Americans cast their ballots before voting day in that election, held during the COVID-19 pandemic; this stretched the counting process by days. Mr. Trump lost, but refused to concede the election to Joe Biden. The results were much closer than what the opinion polls had anticipated. The slow counting process strained the coverage.

In the U.S., on counting day, data is provided by the news agency, Associated Press (AP), and a few others. This means that the result is "called" by media outlets, which estimate the chances of a candidate winning a State based on trends that are available from this data. While the U.S. Federal Election Commission monitors implementation of campaign finance laws and the conduct of federal elections, it does not provide live electoral data. This is either collated by agencies such as AP, and released to subscribers via an Application Programming Interface, or is provided by each respective State, mostly by their Secretaries of State.

This is unlike the process in India, where the Election Commission of India (ECI) provides live counting data for each constituency, whether Assembly or parliamentary. Media outlets, especially television journalists, also use agencies or their own reporters to provide information on trends from counting centres. However, these are not always accurate. The slower and steadier trends that trickle in from the ECI website, which are authenticated by polling agents at counting centres, give media outlets and the general public a clear picture on electoral trends. The structured manner in which the ECI presents its results also helps media outlets and data enthusiasts, such as those in *The Hindu*, to parse that information and present it separately with more granular information. This includes, for instance, data on rural and urban voting trends across States.

While U.S. news agencies and media outlets are efficient in presenting results, the situation in India is different: the information is not available to only a select few outlets, and is collated and displayed in a structured manner by the ECI for anyone to use. The ECI also presents 'deep-dive data' – for instance, information from polling booths on how voters choose their candidates. It also provides Assembly segment-wise data for parliamentary constituencies. While this information is uploaded onto the website after a lag – it can take a few weeks after results are announced – the fact that it is made available is useful for social scientists and journalists to analyse the results even further, long after the excitement over elections dies down.

For a data journalist, the Indian model of providing electoral results via a public authority works much better than the American one. In recent years, the ECI has received a lot of flak for various issues, such as the robustness of the Electronic Voting Machines (an overblown controversy), the patchy implementation of the Model Code of Conduct (a legitimate criticism), the dilation of the voting process in some States (unavoidable in a few cases), and the relative laxity in regulating campaign expenditure (which is becoming a problem). But what must be appreciated by publicly minded people in India is that the ECI releases structured voting data in a transparent, timely, and efficient manner.

srinivasan.vr@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Paying homage to the sun god

Devotees offer prayers on the banks of the Ganga at Digha Ghat on the last day of the Chhath Puja, in Patna. Chhath Puja is a four-day festival in which devotees worship the sun. It is widely celebrated in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and parts of Nepal. PTI

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 15, 1974

Arafat's call in U.N. for Palestinian State

United Nations, Nov. 14: Mr. Yasser Arafat, the head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, making an extraordinary appearance before the UN General Assembly yesterday, called for the creation of a single democratic Palestinian State where the Christians, Muslims and Jews can live in peace, justice and equality.

Alternately acting and speaking like a statesman as well as a guerrilla leader, the 44-year-old Palestinian warned, "I have come bearing an olive branch and a freedom fighters' gun. Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand."

He said that a fifth West Asian war, the possibility of which has been talked about since the Arab and Israeli positions hardened, in the wake of the Rabat summit's naming of the PLO as the spokesman of the Palestinians, might end in a nuclear holocaust.

He said that Zionism was imperialist and racist and warned that like South Africa, Israel too could be suspended from the UN General Assembly.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 15, 1924

Japan supports China

Geneva, Nov. 13: The upshot of today's proceeds of the Opium Conference is that China emerges unscathed, though the debate will be resumed tomorrow.

The essential feature of the French convention for the control of the sale of opium is the number of places of sale, prohibition of sale to minor, non-increase in the number of opium dens, prohibition of traffic and vigorous suppression of smuggling.

From Page One

AFSPA reimposed in six areas of Manipur

"...intermittent firing in violence-prone areas continues in the fringe areas of Bishnupur-Churachandpur, Imphal East-Kangpokpi-Imphal West and Jiribam districts with several instances of active participation of insurgent groups in heinous acts of violence," the MHA said.

A senior government official explained that the Army and the Assam Rifles would be able to conduct operations without waiting for the arrival of a Magistrate and the State police.

"AFSPA has been reimposed in the fringe or buffer zones, areas where Kuki-Zo and Meitei villages converge. These areas are being guarded by Central armed police forces. While the Army could freely operate in the hills, after revocation of AFSPA from the valley districts, they were facing issues as they had to wait for civil assistance while armed miscreants took advantage of the order to cross jurisdictions," said the official.

The Hindu reported on September 23 that there are differing views in the Union and the State governments over the inclusion of more areas under AFSPA. Officials said that a substantial increase in the number of armed insurgents, particularly in the valley districts was a cause of concern and the rising cases of extortion and abductions were also being taken into consideration. Other than 22,000 Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel, around 140 columns of the Army are deployed in Manipur. Each column can have upto 40 men.

So far, more than 240 people have been killed in the ethnic violence between the Meitei people who live in the valley and the tribal Kuki-Zo-Hmar people in the hills that started in May 2023. In the recent spell of violence since November 7, at least 14 people have been killed, including three men and women who were burnt to death and six others were abducted. In June, violence had spread to new areas such as Jiribam, which had largely remained unaffected by the ethnic violence in the past year.

Exports rebound, Oct. import bill hits record

Petroleum imports, on the other hand, rose 13.3% year-on-year to $18.3 billion, and were 46.4% over the previous month's $12.5 billion.

This coincided with a continuous decline in petroleum exports, which slipped 22.1% in October to $4.58 billion, below September's figure of $4.7 billion, which had marked a 32-month low.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal, however, downplayed the import bill rise, and highlighted the trade trends beyond the petroleum basket. Between April and October, India's non-petroleum exports have surged to the highest ever tally of $211.3 billion and if this trend continues, India's total exports, including services, will cross the $800 billion mark this year to set a new record, he remarked. "A key factor for the 17%-plus growth in exports could be improved demand for this Christmas from developed markets as firms start stocking up inventories for the festival," the top trade official said.

"If you look at the UNCTAD and the World Trade Organisation projections for this year, they are very pessimistic. But despite the global situation being highly volatile, growth in the Western countries slowing with some recessionary trends, and the disruptions in global trade routes, our exporters have been able to do well in several sectors," he emphasised.

Citing healthy double-digit growth in exports of engineering goods, chemicals, electronics, rice, and labour-intensive sectors such as readymade garments and textiles, the Commerce Secretary said this demonstrated that India's strategy of focusing on certain sectors and countries was now yielding results, along with its approach to industrial policy, trade policy and foreign policy, and manufacturing competitiveness had improved.

Cong. targets Piyush Goyal for suggestion about rate cut

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Taking a dig at Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's suggestion that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) need not go by food inflation data to decide on interest rate cuts, the Congress on Thursday said that the statement displayed "extreme insensitivity".

Mr. Goyal, while addressing a global leadership summit of privately-owned TV channel, had asserted that the RBI should go for rate cuts.

"RBI must cut interest rates. It's a flawed theory to consider food inflation for making a choice on cutting rates. This is my personal view and not that of the government," Mr. Goyal had said.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, in an X post, said, "A senior Minister is saying the RBI should NOT consider food inflation while determining interest rates. Aside from raising concerns about the RBI's independence, this statement shows insensitivity."

GOYAL'S REMARKS
» BUSINESS PAGE

Pressure mounts on Manipur govt. to get abductees back

Students in several parts of the State observe Black Children's Day to protest the alleged abduction of children in Jiribam district; youth organisations have sought UN intervention for safe return

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Manipur joined the Congress in mounting pressure on the State government for the safe return of six women and children missing since November 11.

BJP State president A. Sharda Devi appealed for the immediate release of the six missing persons – three women and three children, including a 10-month-old infant – from Borobekra in Jiribam district. They were allegedly abducted on a day when security forces killed 10 assailants in an encounter.

The Manipur Police said the slain men were Kuki 'extremists', but the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum said they were "village volunteers". "We demand the immediate release of the abducted six members of a family without any harm on humanitarian grounds," Ms. Devi told presspersons in Imphal.

On Wednesday, five Congress MLAs from Manipur, led by State party president K. Meghachandra, called on Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at the Raj Bhavan in Guwahati to press for the safe release of the six people. Mr. Acharya holds dual charge of Assam and Manipur. "We demanded the Governor's intervention in the safe release of the abducted women and children apart from urging him to help halt the violence and bring normalcy in Manipur," Mr. Meghachandra said.

K. Meghachandra Singh, Okram Ibobi Singh and others submit the memorandum to Lakshman Acharya at Raj Bhavan in Guwahati. ANI

The political parties' appeal followed a seven-day ultimatum served by various civil society organisations in the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley to the government for decisive action to address the escalating conflict in the State. These organisations threatened to withdraw support from the national political parties and initiate a mass movement against the political leaders if their demands were unmet.

The Manipur International Youth Centre and Youth Collective Manipur sought the intervention of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions to save the six missing civilians. In a letter to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the two organisations documented the "abductions and widespread displacement of civilians" since the outbreak of the ethnic conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo people in May 2023.

They said Kuki extremists burned the houses of the Meitei people during the November 11 attacks, leading to the abduction of the six women and children. They appealed to the UN for an "investigation into the incident, a public appeal for the immediate release of the hostages, and measures to hold the perpetrators accountable under international laws".

Students in several parts of Manipur held protests to mark November 14 as 'Black Children's Day' and demanded the safe release of the six persons, specifically the three children. The Students' Front of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity led the protests.

Insurgent group HNLC banned for 5 more years

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday declared the Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC), a Meghalaya-based insurgent group, an "unlawful association" for another five years for its involvement in violent incidents and carrying out activities prejudicial to India's sovereignty and integrity.

The group had withdrawn from peace talks with the Centre earlier this year. After it was banned in 2019, the group demanded withdrawal of the order to continue talks.

In a notification, the Ministry said the Centre was of the opinion that the HNLC has declared objective for secession of areas in Meghalaya, largely inhabited by Khasi and Jaintia tribes, and continued intimidation and bullying of the civilian population to extort funds for their organisation.

It said the Meghalaya government has recommended for declaring the HNLC as an unlawful association under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Congress is propagating ideas of Aurangzeb, says Modi at Maharashtra rally

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed three rallies at Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Panvel, and Mumbai in poll-bound Maharashtra on Thursday.

Addressing a mega rally at Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Mr. Modi asked people whether they would vote for those who respect and follow Sambhaji or those propagating Aurangzeb's ideas.

"All of Maharashtra is aware that it was Balasaheb Thackeray who raised the issue of changing the name of Aurangabad to Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar for the first time. But when the new government was formed [Uddhav Thackeray's undivided Shiv Sena], they did not have the guts to change the name because they were under the pressure of the Congress. Immediately after the Mahayuti government came to power, we made sure to give the city its identity," Mr. Modi said.

Narendra Modi, Eknath Shinde and Devendra Fadnavis during the Mahayuti rally at Shivaji Park in Mumbai. EMMANUAL YOGINI

"The [Maha Vikas] Aghadi is so uncomfortable with the change of name that they even moved the courts," he said. "They are against the values and principles of Maharashtrian culture," he added.

The BJP-led-Mahayuti has only one vision – to lead the State towards development – and to modify Maharashtra with modern infrastructures and amenities, he added.

He said that for the devotees of Lord Vitthal, his government had developed the Palkhi Marg Project. "We gave Marathi language the classical language tag. All the *Aghadis* have done is to block the development of Maharashtra," he added.

"The Shehzada [prince] of Congress party [Rahul Gandhi] goes to foreign countries and speaks against reservation. That's why I am raising the slogan, *Hum Ek Hain, Toh Safe Hain,*" he said.

Modi snatched 5 lakh jobs from Maharashtra and gave them to Gujarat: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Thursday criticised the Modi government for "snatching" five lakh jobs from Maharashtra, alleging that multiple projects were shifted from the State to Gujarat.

At rallies in Nandurbar, he slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for disrespecting tribal leader Birsa Munda.

"They say the Constitution [that Mr. Gandhi carries with him] is empty because they never read it. They say I show the 'red colour Constitution book', but the book cover doesn't matter as we are protecting what is written inside it," Mr. Gandhi said, responding to Mr. Modi's remarks on the "blank Constitution".

"The Constitution holds thousand-year-old thought processes, has ideas of the Buddha, [Jyotirao] Phule, [B.R.] Ambedkar, Birsa Munda – the soul of India thrives in it. When the BJP says the Constitution is empty, they are disrespecting Birsa Munda," Mr. Gandhi said, showing a photo of the folk hero who fought in the struggle for Independence.

Rahul Gandhi addresses a public meeting in Nandurbar district on Thursday, ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections. PTI

Mr. Gandhi slammed Mr. Modi for allegedly snatching at least five lakh jobs from Maharashtra and taking them to Gujarat and other States.

"Vedanta and Fox semiconductor plant was shifted to Gujarat, which could generate 10,000 jobs. Tata Airbus manufacturing unit project generating 10,000 jobs; iPhone plant generating 75,000 jobs; and the GAIL project generating 21,000 jobs were snatched and given to other States. This is why Maharashtra faces a lack of employment. If we come to power, Maharashtra's projects will stay here and we will give dignified employment to everyone," the Congress leader said.

Hate speech cannot be equated with false claim: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said 'hate speech' is not the same as making a false claim or a wrong assertion.

The oral observation from a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna was made while dismissing a petition filed by Hindu Sena Samiti seeking framing of guidelines to prevent hate speech by political leaders.

The petition had cited recent comments by political figures, including Bharatiya Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tikait, as instances where rhetoric had allegedly threatened public order.

Sky is the limit for development of tribes: President Droupadi Murmu

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said India could become "truly developed" only when the tribal communities were developed.

In a televised address to the nation on the eve of the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, Ms. Murmu lauded the Union government for making development of tribal communities a national priority.

"Our country will become truly developed only when our tribal people also become developed. Fast-paced progress of the people of the tribal communities is our national priority," she said. The President recalled her visit to Birsa Munda's village Ulihatu in Jharkhand two years ago.

On Birsa Munda's birth anniversary, Murmu lauded the Centre for making development of tribal communities a national priority. PTI

Right now, Jharkhand is in the midst of a two-phase Assembly polls, with the second and final phase scheduled for November 20 while the first phase of polling took place on November 13.

She noted how several tribal heroes such as Birsa Munda, the brave brothers Sidhu-Kanhu and Chand-Bhairav, Tilka Manjhi, Laxman Nayak and the brave sisters Phulo-Jhano had revolted against the injustice of British rulers.

Lauding the various welfare schemes for the tribes, she noted that the budget of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for this year was ₹13,000 crore, a 74% increase over last year's budget.

Recalling the start of her journey in public service as a member of the Tribal Advisory Council, Ms. Murmu said, "The immense love that I get from fellow citizens, including the tribal communities, makes me emotional at times. Behind this feeling is also the pleasant truth that today sky is the limit for the development of tribal communities". "No matter how high they aspire to fly, the society and the government are fully committed to supporting them," she added.

PM to launch stamp, coin on Munda's birth anniversary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch a commemorative stamp and coin on Friday to mark the 150th birth anniversary of tribal icon and freedom fighter Birsa Munda at an event scheduled in Jamui district of Bihar.

The Centre in 2021 decided to celebrate November 15, the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas every year. According to a government statement, Mr. Modi is also set to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for components of a slew of tribal welfare projects worth over ₹6,640 crore.

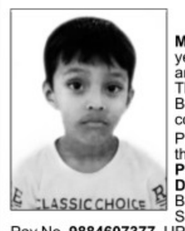
Omar set to meet Sitharaman today

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has started engaging with the Centre in a bid to push governance and development agenda for J&K..

He is likely to meet Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday to identify areas that require Central handholding ahead of the U.T.'s first Budget session, which will be held in the winter capital of Jammu early next year. The power sector, unemployment, and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits remain areas where he is looking for support, official sources said.

APPEAL



Master Jai Ditya Yadav son of Rakesh Yadav 8 years admitted in Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre is a diagnosed case of Thalassemia Major. He requires Allogenic Bone Marrow Transplant. The approximate cost of treatment at hospital is **Rs. 15,00,000/-**.

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Jai Ditya Yadav. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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'Cong. won't win even five seats in Jharkhand'

In a series of rallies ahead of the second phase of polling in Jharkhand, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the Congress would not cross even five seats in the Assembly election in the State.

Mr. Shah was addressing a rally in Giridih, where the BJP has fielded Nirbhay Kumar Sahabadi against Sudivya Kumar of the JMM.

Mr. Shah said, "Sonia *ji* launched the plane named Rahul 20 times, but it never landed. It is going to crash for the 21st time at Deoghar Airport. Congress will not even cross the figure of five this election."

Mr. Shah addressed a rally in Gandey, where the contest is between the BJP's Muniya Devi and Kalpana Soren.

Amit Shah during a public meeting in Baghmara. PTI

28% nominees in Phase 2 face criminal cases

Nearly 28% of candidates in the fray in the second phase of the Jharkhand Assembly election on November 20 have criminal cases against them, an analysis by the Association for Democratic Reforms shows. Among political parties, the highest number of candidates with criminal cases are from the BJP at 44%, followed by Congress with 42%.

The analysis was done based on the affidavits of 522 of the 528 candidates, who are contesting in the second phase.

Of these candidates, 148 (28%) have declared criminal cases against them, while 122 (23%) have declared serious criminal cases against them.

Twelve candidates have declared cases related to crime against women.

If you believed the NCP was corrupt, why did you induct its faction? Shinde is chowkidar of corrupt businessman

KANHAIYA KUMAR
Congress leader

Rahul gets cane juice, interacts with women

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday had a glass of sugar cane juice at a street-side outlet and interacted with women in Nanded district of Maharashtra. He addressed a rally in this central Maharashtra city ahead of the Assembly election. PTI

Their (BJP's) leaders have been moving around the State for the past one year and applying all tricks to clinch power.

HEMANT SOREN
Jharkhand CM

Kalpana Soren campaigning in the Gandey Assembly constituency on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kalpana Soren seeking votes on her work in five months

Amit Bhelari
GANDEY

Kalpana Soren, Gandey MLA and wife of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, is among the big names contesting in the second phase of polling in the Assembly election on November 20.

Having made her Assembly debut by winning the byelection to the Gandey seat while her husband was in jail earlier this year, Ms. Soren has matured in the political spotlight by becoming a star campaigner of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha over the past few months. The party has shown its confidence in her by fielding her again from Gandey in Giridih district, which has a large population of tribal people and Muslims.

She has been pitted against Muniya Devi of the BJP, a grassroots leader who is new to mainstream politics. She hailed from the Kushwaha community and was elected a District Council member from the eastern part of Jamua in 2011 and later became the president. This is her first Assembly election. She joined the BJP in 2023.

Ms. Soren's campaign is highlighting her work in the constituency since she was elected, as a taste of better things to come. "I promise to my beloved people of Gandey that whatever work I have done in these five months with your blessings was an effort to fulfil the basic needs that this area has been demanding for years. This is my promise to you that in the next term, when I get a full term, I will fulfil our resolve to establish Gandey as the most prominent and developed Assembly constituency of Jharkhand. This is my promise to take your expectations to new heights," the JMM leader said at a recent public meeting.

Ms. Devi, however, said development had remained only on paper in Gandey. "Those who are beating the drum of development should tell whether the work is done just by laying the foundation stone? People are not getting potable water in every village of Gandey. Many poor women are deprived of housing, and corruption is rampant at the block and panchayat levels. She is only telling lies to the people," she said, alleging that while Ms. Soren has laid many foundation stones, work has not begun on a single project.

In January, Sarfaraz Ahmed of the JMM vacated the Gandey seat to provide a safe debut for Ms. Soren. The party rewarded his loyalty by giving him Rajya Sabha ticket.

The JMM has won the Gandey seat six times in the 11 elections since 1977, with the BJP and Congress each snagging it twice, and the Janata Party claiming a sole victory. Muslims and Adivasis make up 40% of the electorate, and winning the votes of both communities can be the foundation of victory for any candidate. The track record so far shows that the tribal people have largely stuck to the JMM, while Muslims support whichever candidate can ensure the defeat of the BJP.

Shankar Munda, a tribal resident of Ambadih village, has been impressed by Ms. Soren's performance so far. "I was facing a problem related to the pension scheme and not getting the money in my account. However, her intervention resolved my problems," he said.

Gunja Devi, a resident of Gajkunda village, said: "I still remember the day she entered politics and broke down while giving her first speech in Giridih. From that day itself, I decided that no matter what the situation, I have to stand by this woman who was all alone when her husband was sent to jail."

'The meeting with Sharad Pawar did take place, but it was not at Adani's residence'

BJP leader and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister says a discussion between his party and the NCP took place at a 'neutral venue' in Delhi in November 2019; rejecting criticism on financial stress due to the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, he says it is a myth that the State is burdened by debt

INTERVIEW

Devendra Fadnavis

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Assembly election is a multi-cornered fight this time. Broadly, the battle is between the two big alliances – the Mahayuti and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). As the BJP prepares to fight this battle along with its Mahayuti alliance partners Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party, BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis speaks of the party's strategy, the understanding between the alliance partners and some controversies. Excerpts:

Recently, Deputy Chief Minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar had said that a meeting had taken place at industrialist Gautam Adani's residence in 2019 to discuss power sharing between the BJP and the NCP. What had happened?

There was a meeting which took place. But it was not at Gautam Adani's residence. Amit Shah, Sharad Pawar, Ajit Pawar, Praful Patel and I were present at the meeting. It took place in Delhi, at a neutral venue. That was the time when Uddhav Thackeray had decided that he would not join us. So, the meeting was held to bring the BJP and NCP together in power. I clearly remember, I had received a call from Sharad Pawar on November 11 (2019). In the meeting, Sharad Pawar had suggested the imposition of President's Rule, so he would travel and advocate to the people for a stable government in Maharashtra. All the decisions were taken about who will be given which portfolio.

EMMANUAL YOGINI

One of the things promised by the Congress in its manifesto is the caste census. What is your stance on it? How important is it in the Maharashtra election?

We have never opposed caste census. But our objection is that the caste census should not be weaponised. It should not be used to divide the people of Maharashtra on the basis of caste. It is our fear that the way the Congress has proposed the caste census, it can lead to the weaponisation of caste. This will affect the social fabric, and people might seek benefits on the basis of caste proportions.

The BJP has been speaking of "vote jihad" and "*batoge toh katoge* (divided we fall)". Is it not divisive?

Please understand why we are speaking of this. "Vote jihad" was used by the Congress and the MVA during the Lok Sabha election. Politics is a battle. If someone attacks, you have to counter-attack. Banners are put on masjids saying if you don't vote for someone, it will be deception with Allah. How is that secular? These religious pitches were used by them in the Lok Sabha election. And it had benefited them in Amravati, in Malegaon, in several other places.

Now, the Congress has accepted the demands put forth by the Ulemas. One of the demands is that the cases against all the Muslims accused in any riots between 2012 and 2024 should be taken back. This is the kind of pressure they are trying to build, and the MVA is accepting such demands.

At such times, this is a natural reaction. We are not anti-Muslim, but we don't like this minority appeasement and vote division. If they want to win the election on polarisation, we will not let that happen.

There is speculation on whether the political combinations will change in Maharashtra after the election.

We will be able to come to power on our own strength. I don't think we will need anyone else's support.

What do you say about the criticism over financial stress, on the burden of debt, on the impact of Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana on the Treasury and the promise of increasing the allocation from ₹1,500 to ₹2,100 for women beneficiaries.

It is a myth that we are under the burden of debt. Maharashtra's economy is worth ₹40 lakh crore. Our debt is ₹6.5 lakh crore. Uttar Pradesh has a similar amount of loan. But their economy is worth ₹25 lakh crore. One has to look at the proportion and not just the standalone numbers. If you consider the debt-GDP ratio, we are the best.

Family feud or ideology, Ambegaon sets the tone

Srinivasan Ramani
AMBEGAON

Travelling on the Pune-Nashik highway past the humongous industrial corridors that surround Pune city, one enters the agrarian and hilly areas of western Maharashtra, which has a more closely contested polity.

Ambegaon, a constituency that traverses these areas with a few towns scattered in between, has been long held by Dilip Walse Patil of the Nationalist Congress Party, who has won uninterrupted tenures since 1990. This victory run has catapulted him to ministerial berths in several Cabinets; he is currently the Cooperation Minister in the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra.

Mr. Patil won the 2019 Assembly election by a large margin – 35 percentage points – after garnering more than two-thirds of the vote. But much water has flown down the Dimbhe dam on the Ghode river in Ambegaon since then.

A long-time protege of Maratha and Maharashtra strongman Sharad Pawar, Mr. Patil faces a much closer contest than before after hitching his bandwagon to the NCP faction led by Mr. Pawar's nephew Ajit. Mr. Patil had started as Mr. Pawar's personal secretary, and it was the NCP founder who brought him into the electoral fray.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the NCP(Sharad Pawar) not only won the Shirur seat but also managed a significant lead of more than 11,000 votes in the Ambegaon Assembly segment of the constituency. This indicates that the NCP will not have it easy in the Assembly election.

Supporters of National Congress Party candidate Dilip Walse Patil greet his daughter Purva Patil in Ambegaon. VIJAY SONEJI

Purva Patil, Mr. Patil's daughter, disagrees that her father's decision to join the Ajit Pawar faction will affect his chances drastically. She emphasises her family's enduring closeness with "Saheb" Pawar. Despite the split in the party, Mr. Patil remains a "*manasa putra*" (akin to a "godson") of Mr. Pawar. She highlights her father's work in the constituency – a fact corroborated by Maratha farmer-supporters of the NCP – and suggests that the Lok Sabha election was contested on grounds and issues not so relevant in the Assembly election.

But the senior Pawar's supporters argue that the achievements that Mr. Patil is credited with are that of their leader as well. A farmer campaigning for Mr. Pawar – something the elderly man has been doing since 1978 – says the veteran had a major role in the development of the region having served as the Chief Minister of the State on four occasions.

Supporters of the younger Pawar, who is now the Deputy Chief Minister of the State, and Mr. Patil do not discount the senior patriarch's contributions, but suggest that the work done by Mr. Patil as an MLA weighs on their choice in the Assembly election.

Formidable force

With such reverence even among his opponents, the senior Pawar remains a formidable force to reckon with in Ambegaon. This was evident in a rally organised by the Maha Vikas Aghadi to introduce its candidate Devdutta Nikam, a sugar cooperative official and former associate of Mr. Patil. The rally in Manchar reflects the adoration for Mr. Pawar, who, even at 83, remains the key vote catcher for the alliance and for Mr. Nikam.

Ravindra Padwal, an electro-mechanical engineer working in a multinational firm in Pune, avers that Mr. Pawar had played a major role in the industrialisation of the Pune-Pimpri-Chinchwad belt and that made him come all the way from Pune to attend the rally. The crowd gets into a frenzy when Mr. Pawar enters the stage – as does Mr. Padwal – and listens keenly to his speech (some are glued to the live telecast of his speech on the mobile phone). Mr. Pawar does not mince words about his former protege, Mr. Patil, betraying little bonhomie vis-a-vis his ex-associate and gives a clarion call to defeat him. The crowd responds enthusiastically.

Indeed, the battle in Ambegaon and others in western Maharashtra featuring the two NCPs is, in a way, sought to be seen as a family affair. Ms. Purva Patil does not shy away from saying that her ideological proclivities are closer to the elder Pawar's party, but emphasises that her father aligned with his nephew for reasons that went beyond the filial. She argues that her father was strongly opposed to drawing water from the Dimbhe dam – a lifeline to Ambegaon's farmers and those in adjoining areas – to areas beyond its two canals. And that the NCP(SP) leaders supported a tunnel arrangement to do so. Ms. Patil frames her father's decision to break away from the senior Pawar as being led by this position on the "tunnel".

Ajit Navale, an All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) leader who was instrumental in the farmers' Long March in 2018 that made waves when they walked all the way from Dindori, near Nashik, to Mumbai to get their demands fulfilled, also spoke at the Manchar rally. Mocking the NCP's emphasis on the "tunnel" as an electoral issue, Mr. Navale says the issues that are relevant in the area include farmer livelihoods and crop support prices.

Agreed agenda

Mr. Navale argues that the Left is part of the MVA on the basis of an agenda that the parties, which include the Shiv Sena (UBT), agree upon: constitutionalism, democracy and anti-authoritarianism.

That the Maratha community forms the bulwark of the support base for both alliances in Ambegaon is evident in the rallies and the public meeting addressed by their leaders. A group of farmers, whom this reporter spoke to, were strongly bothered about two major issues – the fact that GST implementation had made their farming inputs costlier and the Maratha reservation matter.

The latter in particular weighed heavily in the conversation – the farmers strongly suggested that the Maratha community, while numerically strong, suffered from discrimination due to lack of reservation and that their youth deserved better. But this issue was not determining their choice in the election – some were rooting for Mr. Patil, while others were supporting Mr. Nikam.

Their views on recent welfare schemes by the Mahayuti government such as the Ladki Bahin Yojana (cash transfer to women) was filtered through their adherence to either party rather than the other way around. Among Adivasis in the area – there were some who could not benefit from the scheme – there was a similar view.

As the election gets closer in Ambegaon, it is increasingly clear that the winner will be determined on the vantage point of the voter. If they see it as more than just a localised affair between two candidates who were close associates not long ago and if they are concerned about larger matters related not just to the constituency, the MVA and Sharad Pawar seemingly looks like forging ahead, as it did during the Lok Sabha election.

Ban Modi, Shah from campaign, says Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress has lodged a complaint with the Election Commission of India (EC) against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah and has demanded a ban on the two leaders for the remainder of the election campaign in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, who filed the complaint, termed the BJP's campaign "divisive, false, and malicious".

The complaint accused Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah of levelling "false allegations" against the Congress's present and past leadership, accusing them of being opposed to the interests of SCs, STs and OBCs.

The Congress has demanded that criminal cases be registered against "individuals involved in the BJP's blatantly violative electoral campaign".

The party said that both Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah have falsely blamed the Congress of "actively promoting infighting" in these three communities. The party has submitted transcripts of all the "objectionable" comments to the panel.

"To allow Narendra Modi and the BJP to continue to make these elections about caste is ultimately a disservice to the electorate. Real issues such as social economic justice, developments in public infrastructure and job creation have been relegated to the background," the complaint said.

INBRIEF

DRDO announces successful trials of Pinaka rocket system

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Thursday announced the successful completion of flight tests of guided Pinaka multi-barrel rocket (MBRL) system as part of Provisional Staff Qualitative Requirements (PSQR) validation trials paving the way for its induction. This enhances the range of the Pinaka to over 75 km. The flight tests have been conducted in three phases at different field firing ranges. "During these tests, the PSQR parameters viz., ranging, accuracy, consistency and rate of fire for multiple target engagement in a salvo mode have been assessed by extensive testing of rockets. " DRDO said in a statement.

UPPSC agrees to conduct PCS exam in a single shift

After four days of protest by aspirants, the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) on Thursday agreed to conduct the Provincial Civil Services (preliminary) Examination in a single shift based on the old pattern. However, on a similar demand about the exams of Review Officer (RO)/Assistant Review Officer (ARO), the Commission while postponing the examination, decided to form a panel to look into the demands. "On the directives of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the UPPSC decided to postpone the RO and ARO exams and hold the PCS preliminary exam on the old pattern," said Public Service Commission Secretary Ashok Kumar.

No dual eco-clearance for 39 categories of industry

Environment Ministry accepts long-standing demand of industry to remove requirement of both environmental clearance and consent to establish; this will reduce compliance burden, it says

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Saying that it has met a "long-standing demand by industry", the Union Environment Ministry has exempted 39 categories of industries from the mandatory requirement of approaching State pollution control Boards for permission to run their industries.

These include manufacturing units of solar cells and modules, wind and hydel power units; fly ash bricks or block manufacturing; and leather cutting and stitching; and those assembling, repairing and servicing air-coolers and air-conditioners. All of these sectors are in the "white category" of industries, meaning they are the least polluting in nature, by a 2016 classification by the Central Pollution Control Board.

White category industries include those manufacturing solar cells and modules, and wind and hydel power units. REUTERS

Dual compliance

In a press statement on Thursday, the Centre said the move would reduce the "compliance burden" of industries. "The government has accepted the long-standing demand of industry to remove dual compliance of environmental clearance (EC) and consent to establish (CTE) for setting up of new industries. Now, non-polluting white category industries will not be required to take CTE or Consent to Operate (CTO) at all. The industries which have taken EC will not be required to take CTE. This will not only reduce compliance burden but also prevent duplication of approvals," the Environment Ministry noted.

An official in the Ministry told *The Hindu* that even prior to the notification, "white category" industries were given permits by the State departments responsible for industry. "These are the least polluting category but this notification formalises an existing practice where such industries got consent to operate without much trouble."

The easing of this norms also flows from amendments to the Water Act earlier this year in Parliament.

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, was the first piece of legislation in Independent India that identified the need to have an institutional structure to address contamination of waterbodies.

This led to the creation, in September 1974, of the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) that were charged with monitoring and preventing public water resources from getting contaminated by sewage and industrial effluents.

Some of the amendments give the Centre greater authority to override the SPCBs in some instances. As per the original Act, the SPCB's permission is needed for establishing any industry or treatment plant which could discharge sewage into a waterbody, sewer, or land.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, who steered the Bill, had earlier said that the outdated rules and regulations caused a "trust deficit." The imprisonment provisions for minor violations, which are simple infringements and did not lead to any injury to humans or damage to the environment, often caused "harassment" to businesses and citizens and was not in consonance with the spirit of "ease of living and ease of doing business", he had said.

Poor onion, tomato, potato crop pushing up prices, says Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre blames climatic conditions for price volatility.

As the prices of tomato, onion, and potato, the three essential vegetables in Indian households, remain high compared with last year's, the Union government said on Thursday that excess rainfall during the year had impacted the production of these commodities and pushed up their prices.

The Union Consumer Affairs Ministry said the price variation of the three kitchen staples under the previous United Progressive Alliance government was much higher when compared with the first 10 years of the Narendra Modi government.

The all-India average price of tomato on Thursday was ₹52.35 a a kilogram; it was ₹39.2 on November 14, 2023.

For onion, the price has decreased by 1.68% from last year's. On Thursday, the all-India average price was ₹58.36 a a kg compared with ₹59.36 on the corresponding date in 2023. But on October 14 this year, the price was ₹54.13 a kg.

In the case of potatoes, the price was ₹37.48 a kg on Thursday, while it was ₹24.9 on the corresponding date last year. This is an increase of 50.52%.

Timely intervention

An official from the Ministry said the prices of tomato, onion and potato were volatile due to seasonality in production and their susceptibility towards climatic conditions.

"The timely intervention by the government, such as sale of tomatoes at fixed price when the prices were surging, and release of onion buffer have however helped in stabilising the prices of TOP as is evident from the fact that on month-to-month variation as on November 13 in the prices of tomato has declined by 21.4%, while the increase in prices of onion and potato has been brought down below the level of double digits," the official said.

HC summons three editors of Wikipedia page on ANI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday issued summons to three persons who edited the Wikipedia page on Asian News International (ANI), in a defamation suit filed by the news agency over "false, misleading and defamatory" content on the page.

Justice Subramonium Prasad passed the order taking into consideration an order passed by the Division Bench of the High Court on November 11, allowing summons to be served on the three individuals without publicly disclosing their identity.

The ANI had complained that certain edits had been made on the page that claimed that the news agency was a "propaganda tool for the incumbent government".

India to seek extradition of designated 'terrorist' Arsh Dalla from Canada: Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Following the recent arrest of designated pro-Khalistan "terrorist" Arshdeep Singh Gill, alias Arsh Dalla, by the Canadian police in Ontario, the Indian agencies will follow up on an extradition request, the External Affairs Ministry said here on Thursday.

> Given Arsh Dalla's criminal record in India..., it is expected that he will be extradited or deported to face justice in India
>
> **RANDHIR JAISWAL**
> Spokesperson, MEA

"Given Arsh Dalla's criminal record in India and his involvement in similar illegal activities in Canada, it is expected that he will be extradited or deported to face justice in India," Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"We have seen media reports circulating since November 10 on the arrest in Canada of proclaimed offender Arsh Singh Gill, alias Arsh Dalla, the de-facto chief of the Khalistan Tiger Force. Canadian print and visual media have widely reported on the arrest. We understand that the Ontario Court has listed the case for hearing," he said in a statement.

He said Dalla is a proclaimed offender in over 50 cases of murder, attempt to murder, extortion, and terrorist acts, including terror financing. In May 2022, a Red Notice was issued against him. He was designated by the Union Home Ministry as an "individual terrorist" in January 2023. In July 2023, the Indian government had requested Canada for his provisional arrest, but it was declined. Additional information was provided in that case.

"A separate request was also sent to Canada under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty to verify Arsh Dalla's suspected residential address, his financial transactions to India, moveable/immoveable properties, details of mobile numbers, etc. – all of which were provided to Canadian authorities in January 2023. In December 2023, the Department of Justice of Canada sought additional information on the case. A reply to these queries was sent in March this year," he said.

Doctors' bodies to collate data on attacks

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Federation of All India Medical Students' Association (FAIMA) has decided to collect details of attacks on resident doctors and present it to the respective governments. The decision was taken at a meeting held on Thursday to discuss the safety of medical practitioners at the workplace.

A doctor was stabbed by a cancer patient's attendant in a government hospital in Chennai on Wednesday.

FAIMA general secretary Divyansh Singh, who is also the president of Resident Doctors' Association of King George's Medical University, Lucknow, said in the past 30 days. there had been seven such attacks on doctors in his hospital.

Rajnath to visit Laos next week, may meet Chinese counterpart

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

There could be a possible meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart. Admiral Dong Jun. who are both scheduled to attend the ASEAN Defence Ministers' meeting in Laos next week.

Their presence on the same platform comes just after the disengagement at Depsang and Demchok and resumption of patrolling in both areas of the Line of Actual Control.

Mr. Singh will visit Laos from November 20 to 22 for the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM Plus), officials confirmed.

The ADMM-Plus is a platform for ASEAN grouping and its eight dialogue partners – Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, and the U.S.

Rajnath Singh

Last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held their first formal bilateral meeting in five years on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan, during which they welcomed the agreement for a resolution of the military stand-off at the LAC.

Mr. Modi told Mr. Xi in his opening remarks that maintaining peace and stability on the border should be a "priority" for both sides.

HC rejects U.K. resident's plea against arrest by NIA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHL

The Delhi High Court has rejected a petition filed by a man facing prosecution in a case related to the 2023 protests at the Indian High Commission in London, challenging his arrest and remand orders.

The court rejected the petition of Inder Pal Singh Gaba, a resident of U.K., who was arrested in April by the National Investigation Agency for allegedly carrying out unlawful activities during protests that took place in London on March 22, 2023.

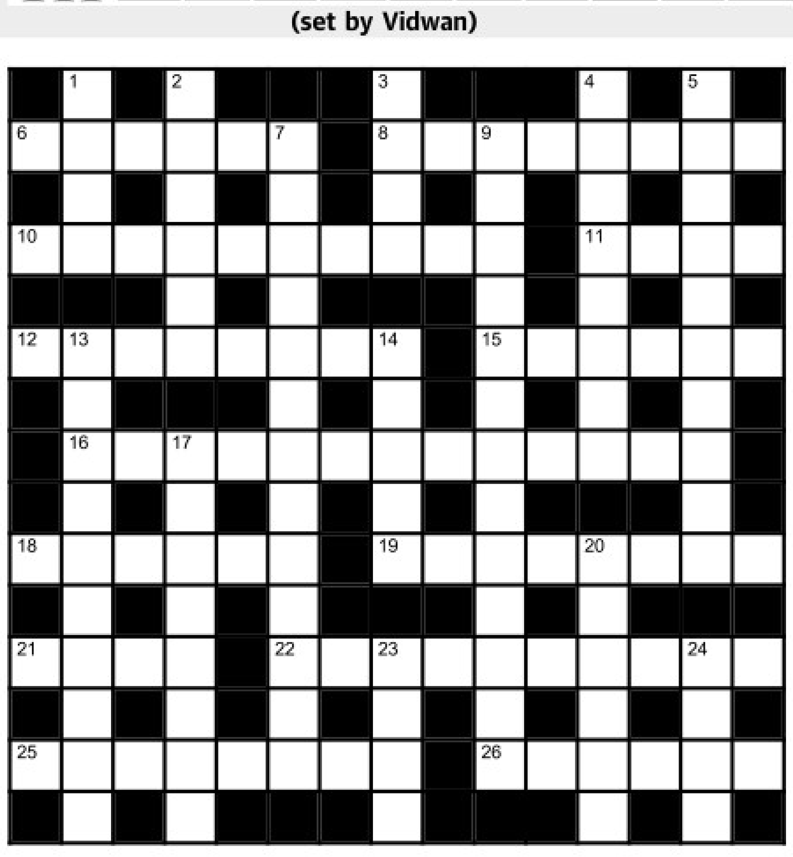
He was detained by the immigration authorities while entering India from Pakistan on the Attari border on December 9, 2023. He was brought to Delhi and released on December 12, 2023. He was later arrested by the NIA.

TH CROSSWORD+ 14331

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

6 Counterbalance love with feminine force to fix! (6)
8 Growth of ordinary failed fellow with zero in essay! (8)
10 Judge, I rob art works about snake in the grass (10)
11 Always go back naked (4)
12 They bid for free trading zones in the east (8)
15 Endless mentions about chant (6)
16 India is one of these but not in scene mostly, somehow (13)
18 Fed up about one's abandon (6)
19 Old fellow starting to fish quietly on Korea borders, disappearing near the coast (8)
21 Teams rejecting outsiders for a rowing team (4)
22 Sick about interrupting class lecture (10)
25 Switch positions intermittently (3,3,2)
26 Manage to survive English king and English cold! (3,3)

Down

1 A long way away, leader of PLO returned after crossing borders (4)
2 Mean like sea wolf, dropping a ton! (6)
3 Time available for solicitor (4)
4 Bully about charging that teen regularly (8)
5 Scrooge has drone redesigned for someone who brings in reforms (10)
7 Having 3 aspects - volatile ether, wheat or barley and English wine (5-8)
9 Force old dominion out along with drug bosses meddling in external affairs (7,6)
13 Wild ficus, tiffs and fights! (10)
14 Occasionally asserts, almost excessively for a short fight (3-2)
17 Friend on a date at Washington, heading to York Street, famous for its theatres (8)
20 More sentimental than dash or hike (6)
23 Large area name, definition basically (4)
24 Sister embracing love and goodness, for example (4)

SUDOKU

2	4						6	
			3			2		9
1					8	5	4	
	6	1			7		5	
9								4
	5		8			9	1	
	1	9	7					6
8		4			9			
	3						9	1

No.SS6340 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

M	I	S	S	P	E	L	T	■	L	I	S	T	E	R
I	■	C	■	L	■	E	■	■	■	N	■	H	■	E
D	E	U	T	E	R	O	N	■	A	T	B	E	S	T
O	■	R	■	A	■	T	■	M	■	R	■	A	■	I
F	I	R	S	T	R	A	T	E	■	A	T	T	I	C
F	■	Y	■	■	■	R	■	S	■	N	■	R	■	E
■	■	■	B	R	A	D	■	H	E	S	S	I	A	N
M	■	I	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	I	■	C	■	T
E	O	L	I	T	H	S	■	T	A	T	A	■	■	■
L	■	L	■	A	■	L	■	R	■	■	■	S	■	G
O	F	F	A	L	■	E	V	E	R	A	F	T	E	R
D	■	A	■	I	■	W	■	A	■	L	■	R	■	A
E	N	T	R	A	P	■	A	D	V	O	C	A	A	T
O	■	E	■	T	■	■	■	L	■	N	■	F	■	E
N	U	D	G	E	D	■	R	E	V	E	R	E	N	D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	8	7	1	5	4	2	9
1	7	9	3	4	2	8	6	5
2	4	5	8	9	6	7	1	3
8	9	1	4	5	3	2	7	6
7	5	3	6	2	1	9	4	8
6	2	4	9	8	7	3	5	1
5	1	7	2	3	8	6	9	4
4	8	2	5	6	9	1	3	7
9	3	6	1	7	4	5	8	2

FAITH

The message of Guru Nanak

On Guru Nanak Jayanthi, his powerful and compassionate message resonates with devotees, not only due to his guideline on bhakti, but also his take on social justice, human rights, gender equality, harmony, peace, love and egalitarianism. His message of unity, tolerance and equality is very significant today than ever before. He emphasised that the teachings have not only to be theoretically assimilated at an intellectual level but also followed in daily life, said Professor Kumool Abbi.

The divinely inspired Guru's scintillating *Bani* includes the *japuji Sahib*, *As di Vaar*, *Sidh Goshti* and almost 900 *shabdas* which are a part of the Sri Guru Granth Sahibji; the central teaching of his sonorous *Bani* reflects both delight and joy in being able to yearn for God, to love Him with one's heart and soul, and strive to have union with Him, leading to bliss, mitigating dullness and ennui, revitalising the soul.

Guru Nanak's *Bani* mitigates suffering, desire and other vices and reassures and proclaims that just as he attained the Lord, all of us shall too. He says God resides in all and everyone is born to adore and love Him.

The soothing message of Guru Nanak is that God is for everyone and all of us have the divine ability to attain Him, by simply loving Him and reciting His name with devotion; one should earn a living the honest way, perform labour and rid oneself of vices. It is here that he introduces the concept of karma, the autonomy of man, to choose his actions and bear the consequences thereof. This, he says, brings man nearer to God. He teaches one to live with harmony, truth and righteousness.

INBRIEF

Grasim Industries' second quarter net profit slid 66%

Grasim Industries Ltd. reported a 66% fall in its second quarter consolidated net profit to ₹390 crore on Thursday. The firm's consolidated revenue stood at ₹33,563 crore, up 11% on superior performance of financial services, cellulosic staple fibre and specialty chemicals units. Consolidated EBITDA fell 10% to ₹4,042 crore on lower profitability in cement and initial investments in the paints business.

RIL's media gambit: NCLT nod for JioCinema-Star merger

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) on Thursday completed the merger of its media assets with the India business of Walt Disney in a ₹70,352-crore merger transaction following approval from the National Company Law Tribunal. In a separate transaction, RIL also bought out Paramount Global's entire stake of 13.01% in Viacom18 for ₹4,286 crore, and now owns 70.49% of Viacom18.

EID Parry India Q2 net profit dips 67% to ₹28 crore

EID Parry India Ltd. said its standalone net profit for the September quarter has contracted 67% to ₹28 crore. Revenue from operations grew 4% to ₹755 crore, the firm said. The sugar segment revenues dipped to ₹368 crore from ₹496 crore on lower cane volume, dip in cane recovery, higher input cost in distillery segment and lower sale volume in sugar on account of lower release quota, said its CEO Muthiah Mugurappan.

Trump 2.0: No need to worry yet

The Commerce Ministry seeks to alleviate anxieties about the implications of Donald Trump's return as the U.S. President after he had termed India a 'tariff abuser' during the election campaign; terms such concerns as 'premature"

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Commerce Ministry on Thursday played down anxieties about Donald Trump's re-election as the U.S. President in light of his remarks calling India a "tariff abuser" just one notch below China, noting that trade ties have grown persistently since 2001 and both countries' value chains have got more integrated seamlessly over the years and across different administrations.

Top trade officials

termed some questions about the impact of the Trump 2.0 regime on India as 'premature' as Mr. Trump is still putting his team together and policy pronouncements would take time to play out, based on which the Centre can assess the situation if warranted. However, over a period of time, both countries have seen greater integration in their trade and investment flows, they noted.

> Whatever may be the Presidency, we are seamlessly integrating our value chains and our two economies
>
> **SUNIL BARTHWAL**
> Commerce Secretary

Amid wariness among analysts about the U.S. turning increasingly protectionist and levying higher import tariffs, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal emphasised that India's exports to the U.S. have grown steadily between 2001 and 2023, which coincided with the tenure of four U.S. Presidents. India enjoyed bipartisan support in the U.S., he pointed out.

As per Commerce Ministry data, India's pie in imports by America has risen to 2.8% in 2023 from 0.9% in 2001. Over this period, U.S. imports from India have grown at a compounded annual growth rate or CAGR of 10.48%, compared to its overall imports that have grown at a CAGR of 4.76%.

"Whatever may be the Presidency, we are integrating our value chains and we are integrating the two economies through various agreements, including the India Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) and bilateral mechanisms. We are able to have a sustained growth with the U.S.," Mr. Barthwal averred.

RBI must cut rates to boost growth, look through food prices, says Goyal

Reuters
MUMBAI

The RBI should cut interest rates to boost economic growth and look through food prices while deciding on monetary policy, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said, the first time a government Minister has backed calls to re-examine the nation's inflation-targeting framework.

"I certainly believe they (central bank) should cut interest rates. Growth needs a further impetus," Mr. Goyal told a news chan-

Piyush Goyal

nel here, adding it's an "absolutely flawed theory" to consider food inflation while deciding on rates.

Mr. Goyal clarified these were his personal views and not those of the government but also pointed to a similar suggestion by the Chief Economic Adviser in his Economic Survey.

India's monetary policy framework should consider targeting inflation that excludes food, the prices of which are influenced more by supply than demand, the government's 2023/24 economic survey had said in July.

India's retail inflation surged to a 14-month high in October, driven largely by a jump in vegetable prices and dashed hopes of an interest rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) next month.

The RBI targets consumer price index-based inflation and is currently mandated to keep inflation at 4% with a tolerance band of 2 percentage points on either side and central bank officials have held firm to the policy directive in their comments.

Persistently high food inflation has also squeezed middle class budgets to slow urban spending over the past three to four months threatening India's brisk economic growth.

Price rise to ebb despite humps: RBI Governor Das

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

In his first remarks about India's retail inflation since official data pegged October's price rise at a 14-month peak of 6.21%, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday that inflation is "expected to moderate despite periodic humps" and economic growth "remains resilient" and the "external sector is robust". The Rupee, he said, has remained relatively stable despite several shocks.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	77,580	-0.14
US Dollar	84.46	-0.08
Gold	77,050	-0.90
Brent oil	72.69	1.85

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2826.80	10.10
Adani Ports	1264.55	-23.35
Apollo Hosp	6860.65	1.80
Asian Paints	2483.15	12.65
Axis Bank	1140.70	1.55
Bajaj Auto	9482.95	30.80
Bajaj Finserv	1639.80	-24.65
Bajaj Finance	6549.15	-16.85
Bharat Elec	280.95	-0.60
Bharti Airtel	1550.50	0.05
BPCL	298.20	-7.65
Britannia Ind	4915.60	-130.90
Cipla	1499.75	-5.85
Coal India	409.75	2.85
Dr Reddys Lab	1226.70	-18.30
Eicher Motors	4883.70	295.00
Grasim Ind	2523.95	21.05
HCL Tech	1858.95	-5.80
HDFC Bank	1692.75	11.40
HDFC Life	694.00	8.95
Hero MotoCorp	4604.00	84.40
Hindalco	627.35	0.75
Hind Unilever	2389.20	-75.75
ICICI Bank	1256.95	3.25
IndusInd Bank	1017.15	-19.55
Infosys	1864.55	-3.85
ITC	465.95	-6.25
JSW Steel	939.05	3.10
Kotak Bank	1707.90	20.05
L&T	3526.25	-21.70
M&M	2807.20	8.25
Maruti Suzuki	11006.05	-43.55
NestleIndia	2182.80	-52.45
NTPC	372.50	-8.85
ONGC	250.80	-1.75
PowerGrid Corp	312.10	-5.90
Reliance Ind	1267.60	15.55
SBI Life	1562.30	15.60
State Bank	804.25	-4.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2822.60	-31.25
Sun Pharma	1768.20	-10.80
TataConsumerProduct	925.00	-27.75
Tata Motors	774.30	-11.95
Tata Steel	137.98	-1.19
TCS	4145.90	-4.45
Tech Mahindra	1687.50	11.90
Titan	3183.70	-4.15
Trent Ltd.	6463.00	-35.25
UltraTech Cement	10728.50	-53.70
Wipro	566.70	-2.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 14

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	84.20	84.52
Euro	88.56	88.89
British Pound	106.44	106.85
Japanese Yen (100)	53.93	54.13
Chinese Yuan	11.62	11.66
Swiss Franc	94.63	94.99
Singapore Dollar	62.47	62.72
Canadian Dollar	60.10	60.33
Malaysian Ringitt	18.76	18.85

Source:Indian Bank

Rosmerta Digital defers SME IPO amid complaints of fraud

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Rosmerta Digital Services Ltd., which said it would unveil the biggest-ever SME IPO estimated at ₹206 crore on November 18, has postponed the offering as per an advertisement issued by the company on Thursday, a day on which the IPO's anchor investors' portion was to kick off.

"Please note that the IPO which was originally scheduled to open on November 18, 2024, and close on November 21, 2024, has been postponed," the firm said in the announcement.

"The decision to postpone the IPO has been taken in light of the current adverse market condition, after careful deliberation and consultation with book running lead managers (BRLMs). The company will announce the revised schedule at an appropriate time," the statement said.

The promoters have been accused of fraud and presenting distorted financial data in DRHP

It is reliably learnt the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) urged the firm to withdraw the IPO after numerous complaints were received alleging lack of disclosures in its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) and alleged market manipulation by the promoters' close relatives. The book running lead managers for the issue are Nornolia Financial Services and Beeline Capital Advisors.

SEBI is learnt to have 'advised' the merchant bankers to do the needful. The three-year old firm had even fixed the price band at ₹140-₹147 a share with a face value of ₹2.

The SEBI, Finance Ministry and other authorities received complaints alleging the promoters viz. Kartick Vivek Nagpal, Karan Vivek Nagpal, Rosmerta Technologies Ltd. and trust pomoter-representative Aarti Nagpal and other unknown persons, had resorted to, and indulged in fraudulent malpractices by deliberate concealment of crucial material facts and presenting distorted financial data in the DRHP.

The complaints had alleged they were a front for Vivek Nagpal, the father of individual promoters and husband of trust promoter Aarti Nagpal, and involved in capital market manipulation, insider trading and money laundering through a complex web of inter-related entities.

For Hero MotoCorp, Q2 PAT grew 14% to ₹1,204 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Hero MotoCorp Ltd., the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, reported a 14% year-on-year growth in its standalone net profit to 1,204 crore for the second quarter ended September.

Revenue for the quarter grew 11% to ₹10,463 crore. "We have continued our exceptional performance in Q2 FY25, once again creating a new high in both topline and bottomline," said CEO Niranjan Gupta, "Our strong focus on cash management has resulted in delivering strong cash flow, strengthening financial position even further.

"Our journey to build a powerful portfolio in premium segment is progressing with pace," he added.

Wholesale food prices surged 11.6% in October, lifting inflation to 2.4%

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Inflation in India's wholesale prices hardened to a four-month high of 2.4% in October, from 1.84% in September, led by 11.6% acceleration in food prices, the first double digit uptick in 25 months, from a 9.5% increase recorded in the preceding month.

Vegetable prices soared over 63%, compared with the 14-month peak inflation of about 49% recorded in September. Potato prices rose 78.7%, marginally higher than 78.1% in the previous month, while onion inflation halved from 78.8% in September

to 39.25% in October.

The Wholesale Food Index jumped 3% on a month-on-month basis. The Commerce and Industry Ministry attributed the rise in wholesale price inflation to an increase in prices of food articles, manufacture of food products, machinery & equipment, motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers.

Inflation in manufactured products also picked up to 1.5% in October from 1% in the previous two months, while primary articles inflation more than tripled from August to touch 8.1%. However, fuel and power remained in deflationary territory, with prices 5.8% below last October's levels, as opposed to a 0.5% decline in August and about 4% year-on-year dip in September.

Food inflation alone pushed up the overall uptick in the Wholesale Price Index, reckoned ICRA senior economist Rahul Agrawal. Wholesale food inflation is expected to remained elevated this month as well, but print under 10%, he said, citing favourable base effects.

"The available data on daily wholesale prices points to a softening for 13 of the 22 items in November 2024 so far vis-à-vis October 2024, even as onions and edible oils remain a concern," he said.

Acuite Ratings and Research chief economist Suman Chowdhury said manufactured products' mild inflation reflects a "limited pass through" of costs by producers amidst the slowdown in demand conditions seen in the July-September quarter.

अजमेर विकास प्राधिकरण, अजमेर
टोडगल लेन, सिविल लाईंस, अजमेर, Email :- ajmerada@gmail.com,
Website :- www.rajasthan.gov.in/ada, Tel.No. :- 0145-2627748-2627749
क्रमांक :- अविप्रा/प.2/तकनीकी/2024-25/2318 दिनांक :- 13/11/2024
E-Tender - 25/2024-25
Bids for various works Rs. 793.00 Lacs are invited from interested bidders up to 03/12/2024, 6:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) & (http://sppp.raj.nic.in) http://www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/ada** departmental website.
UBN No. :- AJD2425WSOB00150-152 Executive Engineer
Raj.Samwad/C/24/7748 Ajmer Development Authority, Ajmer

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
6th, 7th, & 8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029
Petition No. 338/TL/2024 Dated: 11.11.2024
NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003
An application under Sections 14 & 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made by Khavda IV A Power Transmission Limited (KIVAPTL), C-105, Anand Niketan, New Delhi 110021 for the grant transmission licence to establish "Transmission scheme for evacuation of power from potential renewable energy zone in Khavda area of Gujarat under Phase-IV (7GW): Part A" (hereinafter referred to as the 'transmission scheme/project'). The scope of the project for which a transmission licence has been sought is as follows:

S. No.	Name of theTransmission Element	Scheduled COD in months from Effective Date
1.	Creation of 765 kV bus section-II at KPS3 (GIS) along with 765 kV Bus Sectionaliser and 1x330 MVAR, 765 kV Bus Reactors on Bus Section-II Bus section - II shall be created at 765 kV and 400 kV level both with 3x1500 MVA, 765/400 kV ICTs at Bus Section-II	24 months (30.08.2026)
2.	Creation of 400 kV bus Section-I I at KPS3 (GIS) along with 400 kV Bus Sectionaliser and 1x125 MVAR, 420 kV Bus Reactors on Bus Section-II and 3 Nos. 400 kV bays at Bus Section-II for RE interconnection.	
3.	KPS3 (GIS) - Lakadia (AIS) 765 kV D/C line	
4.	2 Nos. of 765 kV line bays each at KPS3 (GIS) and Lakadia (AIS) for KPS3 (GIS) - Lakadia (AIS) 765 kV D/C line	
5.	±300MVAR STATCOM with 1x125 MVAR MSC, 2x125 MVAR MSR at KPS3 400 kV Bus section-II	
6.	PS1 (GIS) - Bhuj PS 765 kV 2nd D/C line	
7.	2 Nos. of 765 kV line bays each at KPS1 (GIS) and Bhuj PS for KPS1 (GIS) - Bhuj PS 765 kV D/C Line	
8.	330 MVAR switchable line reactors at KPS3 end of KPS3 (GIS) -Lakadia 765 kV D/C line (with NGR bypass arrangement)	

Note:
i) Bay(s) required for completion of diameter (GIS) in one-and-half breaker scheme, shall also be executed by TSP
ii) TSP of KPS3 shall provide space for work envisaged at Sl. 1, 2, 4 and 8.
iii) The TSP of the present scheme shall arrange for additional land for installation of STATCOM (with MSC/MSR) as specified at Sl. No.5 at KPS3 and TSP of KPS3 shall provide space for 1 No. 400 kV bay for termination of STATCOM
2. The Central Transmission Utility of India Limited vide its letter dated 13.9.2024 has recommended for the grant of a transmission licence to the applicant to establish the proposed transmission system.
3. Based on the material available on the record, the Commission proposes to issue a transmission licence to the applicant for establishment of the transmission scheme as noted in para 1 above.
4. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State transmission licence to **Khavda IVA Power Transmission Limited** before the Commission can be accessed at the **www.adanienergysolutions.com** or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.
5. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act that suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commission's proposal to grant a transmission licence to the applicant, as aforesaid, be sent to the undersigned by **26.11.2024** at the above noted address. The suggestions or objections received after the specified date shall not be considered.
Sd/-
(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
Extension Centre - Coimbatore Organizes
Export-Import Management & Procedures
Course Content: Export & Import Procedure, Foreign Trade Policy and Procedures, The Documents in Export & Import, Terms of Payment including Letter of Credit, Export Promotion Councils role, Marine Insurance, Credit risk coverage by ECGC, Shipping line and customs, Customs Duty Calculation, INCOTERMS, Warehousing, Port, Freight Calculation, Incentives related to Exports.
For Registration
Date : 18, 19, 20, 21, 22th Nov 24
Time : 06.00 P.M - 09.00 P.M
Fees : 3540/-(Inclusive of GST)
5 Days (week-days) Online Training Program
For more Details:9600776611, 8667359360, 7358887633
Visit us at:www.ppdcagra.demsme.gov.in
E-Certificate will be Awarded
Disclaimer: Be aware of fraudulent activities. We never ask to make payment on any personal account.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813/
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact number- 96461-47777)
OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY NO. TSQ-1156/RDSS/ 2024-25
Dy. CE/TL(Design), B-1 Shakti Vihar, Patiala invites E-tenders for Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Testing, Laying & Commissioning of 66 kV single core XLPE (Copper) U/G Cable along with accessories on Turnkey Basis for the works as per PSPCL Specification No. TSQ-1156/RDSS/2024-25. For detailed NIT and Tender Specification please refer to http://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 14.11.2024 from 11.00 AM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C-849/24 76155/12/3636/2023/39060

भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India
(An Autonomous institution of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India)
Chandrabani, Dehradun – 248001 (Uttarakhand)
EPABX: +91-135-2640114-115 & 2640100
Email: registrar@wii.gov.in, Website: www.wii.gov.in
Advt. No.: WII/ADM/Recruitment/2024(1)
Recruitment of Scientist-C (04 posts)
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up the posts of Scientist-C (Pay Matrix Level 11; ₹67,700-2,08,700) in the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
The detailed advertisement along with terms & conditions can be seen on Institute's website **<www.wii.gov.in>**. The last date of receipt of application is **06.01.2025.**
The Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun reserve the right to reject any or all applications without assigning any reason.
Registrar
Wildlife Institute of India

KMML **The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd**
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam Kollam 691583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 E-Mail :md@kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal: https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	Tender Id	Items
1	2024_KMML_701673_1	For the supply of Class Brick Acid Resistant
2	2024_KMML_703270_1	For the supply of Seal Leaf for Rotary Kiln
3	2024_KMML_703644_1	For fabrication & supply of FRP Panels for Filtrate Thickner
4	2024_KMML_705077_1	Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of DCS for Acid Regeneration Plant (ARP) on turnkey basis
5	2024_KMML_701176_1	For the supply of Wooden Pallets-Domestic quality-28000 Nos
6	2024_KMML_697925_1	For the supply of UPVC Profile Roofing Sheets 3M,3.5M &2M with Matching Ridges 1M length
7	2024_KMML_705004_1	For fabrication & supply of sodium Aluminate tank F555 (FRP-Bisphenol)
8	2024_KMML_705314_1	For the supply ofAluminium Chloride-767 MT

Chavara 14.11.2024 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

LONDON

London Mayor says Trump attacks him due to his ethnicity, religion

REUTERS

London Mayor Sadiq Khan has accused Donald Trump of repeatedly criticising him because of his "ethnicity" and Muslim faith, in comments likely to renew his long-running feud with the U.S. President-elect. The pair became embroiled in an extraordinary war of words during Mr. Trump's first presidency. AFP

TEHRAN

Iran tells UN nuclear chief it won't negotiate under 'intimidation'

AFP

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Thursday that Iran will not negotiate under "intimidation" as he held crunch talks with the UN nuclear chief weeks before U.S. President-elect Donald Trump takes office. IAEA chief Rafael Grossi said achieving "results" in nuclear talks with Iran was vital to avoid a new conflict in the region. AFP

KAMPALA

Uganda TikToker convicted of 'hate speech' against President

AFP

A Ugandan court has convicted a 21-year-old content creator for calling for the public flogging of President Yoweri Museveni on TikTok, a state prosecutor said on Thursday. Emmanuel Nabugodi, who created a video depicting a mock Museveni trial, faces up to seven years in prison for "spreading hate speech". AFP

JOHANNESBURG

South African govt. says it will not help illegal miners in closed mine

AP

South Africa's government says it will not help an estimated 4,000 illegal miners inside a closed mine in the North West province who have been denied access to basic supplies. It is part of the police's Vala Umgodi, or Close the Hole, operation, which includes cutting off miners' supplies to force them to return to surface. AP

Prachanda slams Oli, says India ties are under strain

Opposition leader says PM Oli, who is set to visit Beijing, is playing the 'China card', Nepal must acknowledge its unique relationship with India and balance its ties between neighbours, he adds

Suhasini Haidar
KATHMANDU

Slamming Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli for playing what he called the "China card", former Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', now Leader of the Opposition, said India-Nepal ties are under strain due to the new government's policies, and that there is a "danger" that the border dispute would be rekindled.

Referring to Mr. Oli's decision to break from the tradition of leaders of friendly neighbouring countries travelling to New Delhi first after taking over power as "immaturity" as officials said India had not extended an invitation to the Nepal PM, Prachanda said Nepal's ties with India and China should be "balanced".

"[Mr. Oli] is going to China for a bilateral visit, but it seems this visit is more about using the 'China card', which is wrong," Prachanda told *The Hindu* in an interview in Kathmandu. "Our history, culture and geography dictate that we must balance our relationship, and PM Oli must acknowledge Nepal's unique relationship with India before going [to China]. This should not have happened," he added, when asked about the coming visit, expected on December 2-6. This is the first time in more than a decade that a Nepali PM has broken the tradition. The last time, Prachanda himself had travelled first in his tenure to Beijing in 2008, but for the Olympic Games being held at the time. Prachanda's criticism comes amid signs of increased tensions between New Delhi and Kathmandu over a number of issues.

Differing stance: Prachanda's criticism comes amid signs of increased tensions between India and Nepal. SUHASINI HAIDAR

A senior member of the ruling party, however, rejected Prachanda's contention, calling the comments a reflection of an "old mindset of a zero-sum game" in Nepal's ties with India and China.

"There is no India card or China card to play. Our bilateral relations stand for themselves," former Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali told *The Hindu* in response to the comment by the Opposition Leader. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Oli had exchanged customary invitations to each other when they met in New York in September, but there was no firm date intimated by New Delhi for Mr. Oli's visit thus far.

'Two great neighbours'

Speaking at the annual Kantipur Conclave organised in Kathmandu, Mr. Oli himself likened India and China to Sufi shrines at Ajmer and Nizamuddin in Delhi, saying in a lighter vein that it should not matter which is visited first. "We have two great, large neighbours, and we should have good relations with both. Going to China will not spoil the relationship with India."

In the interview, Prachanda spoke about increasing differences between New Delhi and Kathmandu over a number of issues, including the border dispute over areas including Kalapani and Limpiyadhura , which led to a diplomatic stand-off in 2019, after India published maps showing the changes in Jammu and Kashmir since the amendment to Article 370. According to reports, the Nepal government, which has incorporated the disputed territory into the national emblem, now plans to issue new currency notes with the map as well.

"I fear there is a danger that given the situation now, [the border dispute] is going to be reopened again and become a bigger issue. We need to move carefully, improve ties and resolve this issue," Prachanda said, claiming that had he remained in power for some more time, he would have found a solution to the dispute.

The Ministry of External Affairs declined to comment on the issue. Officials pointed to regular exchanges between the two sides, including the visit of Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba to Delhi in August, and the coming visit of Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, to Kathmandu, to be conferred an honorary rank as is the tradition between the two armies.

Anura expects to secure a 'strong presence' in Sri Lanka's Parliament

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Thursday said he expects his National People's Power (NPP) alliance to secure a "strong presence" in Parliament to steer the island nation ahead with a "new political culture".

Addressing media after casting his vote in the island nation's general elections, Mr. Dissanayake said the NPP aims to run a government that is accepted by people in the "north, south, east, and west".

The 55-year-old leftist leader rose to the country's most powerful office two months ago, winning a crucial presidential election on a plank of anti-corruption.

The outcome of Thursday's parliamentary polls will determine the extent of his government's influence in the 225-member legislature.

High hopes: Sri Lanka's President Anura Kumara Dissanayake walks after casting his vote in Colombo on Thursday. REUTERS

Responding to a journalist's question on whether the alliance sought a two-thirds majority in the House, Mr. Dissanayake said: "A strong parliament is sufficient for us". When his party introduces legislation that will benefit the people of the country, no other party would be able to oppose them, he said, adding that only parties that brought oppressive laws against the people needed two-thirds in the House.

Mr. Dissanayake's victory in September 2024 followed a dramatic rise in his popularity among Sri Lankans. His vote share soared from a mere 3.16 % in the 2019 presidential race to 42.3 %. Similarly, the NPP which is led by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) must now increase its presence in the legislature from three seats to 113 for a simple majority.

The two national elections this year assume great significance for Sri Lanka, as the country tries to get past an economic meltdown that pushed it to bankruptcy in 2022.

After a popular citizens' movement booted out former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the elections offered voters' their first chance to elect their new President and representatives in Parliament.

The Election Commission said the counting of the votes – Sri Lankans vote on the ballot paper – began Thursday evening.

BASIC countries ask nations at COP29 to honour commitments for climate finance

Press Trust of India
BAKU

The Paris Agreement seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit rise of global temperature

BASIC countries, including India, have asked developed countries to honour their commitments to provide climate finance rather than "diluting obligations", and rejected attempts by rich nations to shift their financial responsibilities during negotiations at the ongoing COP29 here.

As the annual climate change summit entered the fourth day on Thursday, Brazil, South Africa, India and China (BASIC) also reiterated the need for full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement 2015, a legally binding international treaty.

The Paris Agreement aims at substantially reducing global greenhouse gas emissions to hold global temperature increase to well below 2 degrees Celsius and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The developed countries have emphasised the importance of increasing global climate ambition and have called for all nations, including emerging economies, to enhance their net-zero targets and implementation efforts.

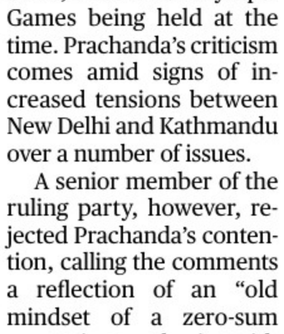
Trump picks Matt Gaetz for Attorney-General, Marco Rubio for Secretary of State

Associated Press
WEST PALM BEACH

President-elect Donald Trump chose Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida to serve as his Attorney-General on Wednesday, bypassing more experienced options in favour of a loyalist who has built a national reputation as a disruptor and whom Mr. Trump has tasked with dramatically overhauling the Justice Department.

Mr. Trump also announced that he had tapped Senator Marco Rubio of Florida as his nominee for Secretary of State and he selected Tulsi Gabbard, a former Democratic member of Congress and presidential candidate, to serve as his Director of National Intelligence.

The choices continued a pattern of Mr. Trump stocking his Cabinet with those he believes he can trust to execute his agenda rather than long-time officials with experience in their fields. Mr. Gaetz's selection, in particular, was seen as a shock. The Florida lawmaker was not among the more established attorneys who had been mentioned as contenders for the job, and even his colleagues in Congress appeared stunned by the news. Mr. Gaetz resigned from his House seat on Wednesday evening.



Matt Gaetz

Mr. Trump announced the decision in a post in his Truth Social network, saying Mr. Gaetz would "root out the systemic corruption at DOJ, and return the Department to its true mission of fighting Crime, and upholding our Democracy and Constitution".

If confirmed by the Republican-led Senate, Mr. Gaetz would instantly become one of the most closely watched members of Mr. Trump's Cabinet given his avowed loyalty to a President-elect who has threatened to pursue retribution against perceived adversaries.

On Capitol Hill, Mr. Rubio is the vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee and a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He has pushed for taking a harder line against China and has targeted social media app TikTok because its parent company is Chinese. He and other lawmakers contend that Beijing could demand access to the data of users whenever it wants.

Mr. Trump made the personnel announcements while flying back to Florida from Washington after meeting with President Joe Biden.

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NOTICE

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India Government Mint, Mumbai (A unit of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd.) is pleased to notify booking of commemorative coin sets in Proof and Uncirculated varieties of following themes.

Theme	Proof (Rs.)	UNC (Rs.)
250 Years of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (Denomintion of ₹ 250) - Folder Packing	4290.00	3985.00
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75th Foundation Year of Central Silk Board (Denomination of ₹ 75) – Folder Packing	3650.00	3470.00
75th Foundation Year of Central Silk Board (Denomination of ₹ 75) – Wooden Packing	3865.00	NA

The booking period will be from **15.11.2024** the coin sets can be booked online on our website https://www.indiagovtmint.in. Alternately, the coin sets can be ordered offline by submitting an order form available on our website or visit our store at Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400001.
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FLYING HIGH

Arshdeep Singh becomes India's second-highest wicket-taker in T20Is

GETTY IMAGES

Seamer Arshdeep Singh became India's second-highest wicket-taker in men's T20Is during the third match in Centurion on Wednesday. Arshdeep has picked up 92 wickets from 59 innings at an economy rate of 8.34 and an average of 18.47. The India pacer is now four wickets short of leapfrogging Yuzvendra Chahal.

WINNING MOVE

Suryakumar gave me the chance to bat at No. 3, says Tilak

GETTY IMAGES

Tilak Varma pointed towards the dug-out after completing a century at Centurion on Wednesday. "It was for SKY, our skipper, because he gave me a chance to bat at No. 3. He said it was a good opportunity to express myself. I told him 'you have given me this opportunity, I will show you on the ground,'" revealed Tilak.

MAXWELL THE STAR

Australia prevails over Pakistan in a seven-over shootout

AFP

Glenn Maxwell returned to form before quicks Xavier Bartlett and Nathan Ellis claimed three wickets apiece as Australia downed Pakistan by 29 runs in a truncated T20I series-opener in Brisbane on Thursday. **The scores**: Australia 93/4 in seven overs (Maxwell 43) bt Pakistan 64/9 in seven overs (Bartlett 3/13, Ellis 3/9). **PoM**: Maxwell.

SUPER EFFORT

Rajput and Hooda power Yoddhas past Titans; Mumba beat Thalaivas

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

UP Yoddhas registered its first victory in five matches, ending Telugu Titans' four-game winning streak with a 40-34 verdict in their PKL contest in Noida on Sunday. Bhavani Rajput and Bharat Hooda, *in pic*, came up with Super 10s while a similar effort from Vijay Malik wasn't enough for Titans. U Mumba defeated Tamil Thalaivas 35-32.

Men in Blue eye yet another series triumph

Skipper Suryakumar will hope for an improved batting performance; team combination in focus for the fourth match at the Bullring

INDIA IN SA

Press Trust of India
JOHANNESBURG

Rinku Singh's batting slot and a circumspect approach will be a cause of concern for India going into the fourth and final T20I against South Africa as the side aims for another bilateral series victory here on Friday.

Centuries by Sanju Samson and Tilak Varma on either side of an inept batting performance has kept India ahead in the series and the Men in Blue would want a collective batting effort to clinch the series 3-1.

The Wanderers' Bullring' has always been a happy hunting ground for India, where it won the 2007 T20 World Cup final against Pakistan.

Even during the previous T20I series a year back, skipper Suryakumar Yadav's last international hundred till date came at this stadium and that too in a winning cause.

The India captain, who enjoys an impressive victory percentage of 81.25 after coming up trumps in 13 out of the 16 matches, would like to do one better compared to the last series in the Rainbow Nation which had ended in a 1-1 draw with one game being washed out.

On cloud nine: Tilak was in his element, smashing his maiden T20I hundred as India took a 2-1 lead on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

The Rinku conundrum

Rinku, an explosive player, has gone off the boil in the past few months. This wouldn't be lost on the skipper and interim head coach V. V. S. Laxman.

It looks like his batting position – being used as a floater at No. 6 or 7 – isn't helping the Aligarh man's cause.

Being seen as a finisher, Rinku, on an average, would get to face 10 balls in an innings. Of late, the southpaw's confidence seems to have eroded as he has been caught between attacking and playing second fiddle.

India has used 12 out of its 15 players in the first three games and it would be interesting to see if one among the two uncapped pacers – Yash Dayal or Vysakh Vijaykumar – is handed a debut in case the pitch warrants a specialist speedster.

For Samson, he would like to forget that he is turning into Marco Jansen's 'bunny' after back-to-back failures. In the final game, it wouldn't be a bad option for skipper Suryakumar to use Ramandeep Singh's steady medium-pace as he can be an asset with multiple skills, including his ability to field at all positions.

The teams (from):

India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakaravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Avesh Khan, and Yash Dayal.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (Capt.), Ottneil Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen. Heinrich Klaasen, Patrick Kruger. Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Mihlali Mpongwana, Nqaba Peter, Ryan Rickelton, Andile Simelane. Lutho Sipamla, and Tristan Stubbs.

Match starts at 8.30 p.m. IST.

Deepika sparkles as India overwhelms Thailand

ASIAN CT

Uthra Ganesan
RAJGIR

It was expected to be a cakewalk and India duly obliged, registering an overwhelming 13-0 win against Thailand in its third game of the Asian Champions Trophy here on Thursday to join China as the only two unbeaten teams in the competition.

While the teams are tied on nine points each, China remains on top by virtue of its massive goal difference. India began on the front foot and stayed so all through, dominating the proceedings against the hapless Thais.

On the rampage

Not surprisingly, Deepika was the wrecker-in-chief, scoring both through penalty corners and in open play, starting as early as the third minute with a reverse hit from the top of the circle.

She would go on to add four more to her tally, two of them through PCs, even as the others joined the party.

Manisha Chauhan scored her first two international goals – first off a PC and then a lazy swing that saw the ball trickle past the goalline – while Preeti Dubey, Lalremsiami and Beauty Dung Dung got two each.

India though was slightly cautious in the first half, perhaps taking time to get into a rhythm. Thailand too, after its impressive draw in the previous game, was effectively defensive, staying back in numbers to deny India's shots at the goal. It was only a matter of time, however, before the floodgates opened.

India earned 11 PCs through the game and for once, coach Harendra Singh was not complaining about either the numbers or the conversions.

If anything, India could have managed at least a few more in the first half before the host upped its level post break and went on a rampage.

Four goals were scored in the last three minutes of the third quarter. Needing 17 goals to leapfrog China into top spot, India finally went all out in the final four minutes, taking off the goalkeeper and scoring four goals in six minutes but had to settle for 13.

Earlier, Malaysia earned its first points in the tournament with a 2-1 win against Korea, its first ever against the higher-ranked opponent in an international competition.

China, meanwhile, continued its impressive unbeaten run with a 2-1 win against Japan to stay on top of the table.

The results:
Malaysia 2 (Zati Muhamad, Nur Mohammed) bt Korea 1 (Eunbi Cheon).
China 2 (Lihang Wang 2) bt Japan 1 (Hanami Saito).
India 13 (Deepika 5, Preeti Dubey 2, Lalremsiami 2, Beauty Dung Dung 2, Manisha Chauhan 2) bt Thailand 0.

Dance of delight: Lalremsiami and Preeti were on the double in India's massive win. R.V. MOORTHY

Manipur shining bright even in the face of dire obstacles in its path

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Manipur had nothing but obstacles in its pursuit to perform well in the Hockey India-14th senior National men's championship.

When the team began its preparations in October back home, the ethnic violence hadn't subsided. The team couldn't practice regularly as sessions would suddenly be cancelled.

And it was not sure whether it would play in the Nationals, as it was short on funds. Quite a few well-wishers including businessmen, individuals, politicians pooled money to ensure Manipur reach the city to compete in the tournament.

And it has exceeded all expectations, by playing a game that has been neat, effective, and attractive.

Hard at work: Manipur players at a training session on Thursday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Manipur showed its character by beating Bengal in the group stage.

It then put up a scintillating performance to topple Punjab, the defending champion, in the quarterfinals and become the first North Eastern State to reach the last four of the Nationals.

"The situation in Manipur is very bad. It still is," said team coach Moirangthem Rinash Meitei, after the training session on the practice pitch of the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here on Thursday.

Beating Punjab in the quarterfinals was sweet revenge for Manipur. For at the same venue and at the same stage last year, Manipur lost to Punjab.

At the time, one of Manipur's senior players Nilakanta Sharma, who had been in good form till then, had to sit out due to typhoid. This time, he was there guiding the younger ones on the field.

The midfielder, a Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist, explained: "Last time, Punjab had quite a few International players, including India captain Harmanpreet Singh. This time, we knew Punjab's international players wouldn't come. We spoke about it in the meeting that this was a good chance for us. Our mentality was very good. Moreover, our midfield is very strong," said Nilakanta.

Fritz wins a marathon; Sinner enters the last four

Agence France-Presse
TURIN

Taylor Fritz closed in on the last four of the ATP Finals on Thursday after coming from behind to beat Alex de Minaur 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.

American Fritz came through an entertaining match in Turin to send home Finals debutant de Minaur, who, by winning a set, handed Jannik Sinner a semifinals spot.

Sinner is hunting his first Finals title after an exceptional season in which he won seven tournaments, including his first Grand Slam victories at the Australian and US Opens.

The results: Ilie Nastase Group: Fritz bt de Minaur 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.
John Newcombe Group: Zverev bt Ruud 7-6(3), 6-3.

Carlsen gets his winning groove on, takes sole lead going into the final day

Tight race: Leader Carlsen has Abdusattorov hot on his heels. DEBASISH BHADURI

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOLKATA

He began slowly, like a steady wind, but Magnus Carlsen is now turning into a destructive storm.

The World No. 1 won all his three games on the second day of the Tata Steel Chess India tournament at the Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium here on Thursday. That means he has won his last four games in a row.

Carlsen will go into the final day of the rapid section as the sole leader in the men's section. But there is one player who could still catch up with him – Nodirbek Abdusattorov, who is trailing the top seed by just half a point.

Carlsen defeated S.L. Narayanan, Wesley So of the United States and Arjun Erigaisi to take his tally to five points. Abdusattorov, who started as the sole overnight leader, didn't have as good a day though, as he had to settle for draws with Nihal Sarin and Vidit Gujrathi before he notched up a win in his last game of the day, against Narayanan with black pieces.

Carlsen and Abdusattorov are scheduled to meet in the last round on Friday. As things stand at the moment - the third-placed So is one full point behind the Uzbek - that game could be something of a final.

Aleksandra Goryachkina's domination of the women's tournament has been impressive, too. The Russian, in fact, enjoys a full point lead over her nearest rival, Nana Dzagnidze of Georgia.

Goryachkina had begun the day as a joint leader, along with compatriot Kateryna Lagno and Vantika Agrawal, but she won all her three games to break away from the competition. She has five points.

Vantika, D. Harika and Valentina Gunina of Russia are on 3.5 points.

The results: Men: Sixth round: Vincent Keymer (Ger) 2.5 bt Nihal Sarin 2; Vidit Gujrathi 2 drew with R. Praggnanandhaa 3; S.L. Narayanan 2.5 lost to Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb) 4.5; Wesley So (USA) 3.5 drew with Daniil Dubov (Rus) 3; Arjun Erigaisi 2 lost to Magnus Carlsen (Nor) 5.
Fifth round: Arjun drew with Keymer; Carlsen bt So; Dubov drew with Narayanan; Abdusattorov drew with Gujrathi; Praggnanandhaa bt Nihal.
Fourth round: Keymer drew with Praggnanandhaa; Nihal drew with Abdusattorov; Gujrathi drew with Dubov; Narayanan lost to Carlsen; So bt Arjun.

Women: Sixth round: D. Harika 3.5 drew with Valentina Gunina (Rus) 3.5; Alexandra Kosteniuk (Swi) 2 lost to Divya Deshmukh 2.5; Nana Dzagnidze (Geo) 4 bt Koneru Humpy 2; Aleksandra Goryachkina (Rus) 5 bt Kateryna Lagno (Rus) 3; Vantika Agrawal 3.5 bt R. Vaishali 1.

Fifth round: Vantika drew with Harika; Vaishali lost to Goryachkina; Lagno drew with Dzagnidze; Humpy drew with Kosteniuk; Divya lost to Gunina.

Fourth round: Harika bt Divya; Gunina bt Humpy; Kosteniuk drew with Lagno; Dzagnidze bt Vaishali; Goryachkina bt Vantika.

INBRIEF

Bakle-Kauthankar pair in record 606-run stand in Ranji

Kashyap Bakle and Snehal Kauthankar scored triple centuries and recorded the highest partnership in Ranji Trophy history, adding 606 runs to help Goa hammer Arunachal Pradesh by an innings and 551 runs in a Plate group match in Porvorim on Thursday. While Kauthankar smashed 314 off 215 balls, Bakle hammered 300 off just 269 balls to propel Goa to a mammoth 727 for two declared in only 92 overs and gain a 643-run lead. Goa then dismissed Arunachal for 92 in 22.3 overs to complete the win. This is only the second instance of two batters recording triple tons in the same innings in a Ranji match after Tamil Nadu's W.V. Raman (313) and Arjan Kripal Singh (302) did so against Goa in 1989.

'No back channel diplomacy with India on CT'

Pakistan on Thursday said that no back channel diplomacy was going on with India after the neighbouring country refused to send its cricket team for the Champions Trophy to be held in February-March next year. The spokesperson of Foreign Office, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, was asked questions at the weekly press briefing regarding the status of the cricket tournament scheduled to be held in Pakistan early next year.

Angkor Tiger FC inaugurates new stadium

Part-Indian-owned Cambodian football club Angkor Tiger FC recently inaugurated its new stadium. Angkor Tiger played its first home game of the season on November 10 and defeated the Ministry of Interior Affairs, also known as Police Team, 4-1. SkaSports Investments Pvt. Ltd., co-founded by Rohit Ramesh, Director, *The Hindu* Media group, and Sudhir Menon, Asian Football Confederation Match Commissioner, have a minority stake in Angkor Tiger FC. Angkor Tiger FC plays in the top-division Cambodian Premier League and is based in Siem Reap, famous for the UNESCO World Heritage site Angkor Wat temple. The new stadium has a capacity of 2,000 and has floodlights.

Sindhu exits in pre-quarters as India's campaign ends

The Indian campaign came to an end as P.V. Sindhu crashed out in the pre-quarterfinals of the Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 badminton tournament on Thursday. Sindhu squandered a one-game lead to lose 17-21, 21-16, 21-17 against Canada's Michelle Li, ranked 23rd in the world, in a match that lasted 75 minutes.

Shrijith completes his ton; Parantap notches up a plucky half-century

Karnataka takes a 186-run first-innings lead through three defiant lower-order partnerships; Skipper Juyal and Kaushik lead U.P.'s fightback

RANJI TROPHY

Dhruva Prasad
LUCKNOW

Debutants Krishnan Shrijith and Yashovardhan Parantap's contrasting knocks helped Karnataka tighten the noose around Uttar Pradesh on the second day of their Ranji Trophy match here at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium.

The visitor assumed a 186-run first-innings lead through three defiant lower-order partnerships before skipper Aryan Juyal and Madhav Kaushik led the host's fightback.

Showing class: Karnataka's Shrijith complete his maiden century. SANDEEP SAXENA

Solid defence

Shrijith built on his overnight score of 68 with a crisp off-drive in the first over of the day and defended solidly by getting behind the line of the ball.

He rode out a short-ball barrage employed by seamers Shivam Mavi and Aaqib Khan even as Shreyas Gopal gloved a pull shot to the wicket-keeper early on.

Parantap stemmed Uttar Pradesh's hope of nipping the tail in the bud as the 20-year-old exhibited a precocious grit, adding 61 with Shrijith for the seventh wicket.

The duo made capital on Mavi and Aaqib's reluctance to pitch the ball up, even with three slips and a gully in position.

With his century on the horizon, Shrijith upped the ante, stepping out and slapping spinner Saurabh Kumar to the cover boundary to reach 90, and then pulling Aaqib to the mid-wicket fence to move to 95.

Reprieve

He was reprieved on 96 when backup wicketkeeper Aaditya Sharma dropped a catch off Saurabh's bowling.

But there were no further jitters for the 28-year-old, who nonchalantly opened the face of the bat for a single at third-man to complete his maiden century, off 125 balls, and raised his willow as the Karnataka dugout stood up to applaud.

Shrijith perished at the stroke of lunch, mistiming a pull to square-leg, but fellow debutant Parantap held firm.

Nasty bouncer

He copped a nasty bouncer from Aaqib on the back of his head before notching up a plucky 118-ball half-century to add to Uttar Pradesh's misery.

The scores: Uttar Pradesh — 1st innings: 89.

Karnataka — 1st innings: Nikin Jose lbw b Aaqib 0, Mayank Agarwal b Saurabh 30, R. Smaran lbw b Aaqib 0, Krishnan Shrijith c Nigam b Mavi 110, Manish Pandey c Juyal b Mavi 6, Abhinav Manohar c Juyal b Mavi 6, Shreyas Gopal c Juyal b Aaqib 15, Yashovardhan Parantap c Rizvi b Nigam 55, Vidyadhar Patil c Rituraj b Kritagya 38, Mohsin Khan b Nigam 0, V. Koushik (not out) 0; Extras (b-5, lb-5, w-3, nb-2): 15; Total (in 79.5 overs): 275.

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-5, 3-53, 4-74, 5-84, 6-141, 7-202, 8-253, 9-254.

Uttar Pradesh bowling: Mavi 23-2-96-3, Aaqib 19-3-53-3, Saurabh 24-4-72-1, Nigam 9.5-0-32-2, Kritagya 4-0-12-1.

Uttar Pradesh — 2nd innings: Abhishek Goswami lbw b Vidyadhar 3, Madhav Kaushik (batting) 33, Aryan Juyal (batting) 35; Extras (b-4, lb-1, nb-2): 7; Total (for one wkt. in 26 overs): 78.

Fall of wicket: 1-8.

Karnataka bowling: Koushik 8-2-16-0, Vidyadhar 8-1-25-1, Parantap 4-0-10-0, Mohsin 2-0-7-0, Shreyas 4-0-15-0.

RANJI SCORES — ROUND 5 (DAY 2)

Elite: **Group-A: At Cuttack:** Maharashtra 162 & 78/3 in 27 overs vs Odisha 200 in 82.2 overs (Swastik Samal 118, Sandeep Pattnaik 41).

Vadodara: Meghalaya 103 & 78 in 17.5 overs (Arpit Bhatewara 46, Ninad Rathva 6/28) lost to Baroda 442 in 71.3 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 121, Shivalik Sharma 42, Shashwat Rawat 121, Mitesh Patel 51).

Points: Baroda 7(27), Meghalaya 0(0).

Jammu: Tripura 165 & 170/7 in 46 overs (Jiwanjot Singh 45) vs Jammu & Kashmir 175 in 57.4 overs (Shubham Khajuria 57, Manisankar Murasingh 5/68).

Delhi: Services 240 in 81 overs (Shubham Rohilla 56, Mohit Ahlawat 76, Shardul Thakur 4/46) vs Mumbai 253/8 in 63 overs (Ayush Mhatre 116, Shreyas Iyer 47).

Group-B: Nagpur: Gujarat 343 in 105.3 overs (Priyank Panchal 88, Vishal Jayswal 112, Chintan Gaja 86 n.o.) vs Vidarbha 202/2 in 65 overs (Danish Malewar 76 batting, Karun Nair 81 batting).

Dharamshala: Pondicherry 85 & 59/1 in 11 overs vs Himachal Pradesh 436/9 decl. in 112 overs (Shubham Arora 58, Ankit Kalsi 105, Rishi Dhawan 70, Mayank Dagar 42, Gaurav Yadav 5/133).

Hyderabad: Hyderabad 301 in 105.4 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 159, Tripurana Vijay 5/118) vs Andhra 168/2 in 58 overs (Shaik Rasheed 79 batting, Karan Shinde 41 batting).

Dehradun: Rajasthan 660/7 decl. in 145.4 overs (Mahipal Lomror 300 n.o., Kartik Sharma 113, Bharat Sharma 54, Kukna Ajay Singh 40 n.o.) vs Uttarakhand 109/2 in 20.3 overs (R. Samarth 50 batting).

Mahipal Lomror (Rajasthan, 300 n.o.). FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Group-C: Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh 89 & 78/1 in 26 overs vs Karnataka 275 in 79.5 overs (Krishnan Shrijith 110, Yashovardhan Parantap 55).

Indore: Bengal 228 & 170/5 in 48 overs (Sudip Kumar Gharami 40, Sudip Chatterjee 40) vs Madhya Pradesh 167 in 59 overs (Shubranshu Senapati 47, Rajat Patidar 41, Mohammed Shami 4/54).

Mohali: Bihar 135 vs Punjab 262/8 in 75 overs (Jaskaranvir Singh Paul 47 batting, Salil Arora 64, Sanvir Singh 47).

Rohtak: Kerala 285/8 in 110 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 55, Akshay Chandran 59, Sachin Baby 52, Mohammed Azharuddeen 53, Anshul Kamboj 8/48) vs Haryana.

Group-D: Raipur: Assam 289 in 95.2 overs (Parvej Musaraf 42, Denish Das 104, Sumit Ghadigaonkar 61, Ravi Kiran 5/59) vs Chhattisgarh 214/4 in 72 overs (Aayush Pandey 108 batting).

Chandigarh: Saurashtra 531/9 decl. in 138 overs (Harvik Desai 99, Chirag Jani 198, Sheldon Jackson 69, Arpit Vasavada 58, Prerak Mankad 53, Nishunk Birla 4/160) vs Chandigarh 78/5 in 23 overs (Arslan Khan 42).

Delhi: Jharkhand 356/9 in 125 overs (Sharandeep Singh 66, Utkarsh Singh 46, Virat Singh 56, Kumar Kushagra 133 batting) vs Delhi.

Ahmedabad: Railways 229 vs Tamil Nadu 324/6 in 93 overs (M. Shahrukh Khan 86, Narayan Jagadeesan 56, C. Andre Siddarth 78).

Plate: **Porvorim:** Arunachal Pradesh 84 & 92 in 22.3 overs (Lakshay Garg 4/43) lost to Goa 727/2 decl. in 92 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 73, Kashyap Bakle 300 n.o., Snehal Kauthankar 314 n.o.).

Goa 7(33), AP 0(0).

Anand: Manipur 357 in 117.2 overs (Ronald Longjam 40, Pheiroijam Jotin 149, Langlonyamba Meitan Keishangbam 76) vs Sikkim 190/5 in 55 overs (Ashish Thapa 51, Parth Palawat 86).

Nadiad: Nagaland 736/7 decl. in 169 overs (Dega Nischal 145, Chetan Bist 304 n.o., Rongsen Jonathan 68, Jagadeesha Suchith 99, K.C. Cariappa 4/141) vs Mizoram 5/2 in nine overs.

Dedicate this hundred to my dad who passed away: Shrijith

Dhruva Prasad
LUCKNOW

Krishnan Shrijith missed the presence of his late father, who passed away about three weeks ago, but the latter's counsel clung on to him as the southpaw cracked a 125-ball century on his First Class debut for Karnataka against Uttar Pradesh here on Thursday.

"I would like to dedicate this hundred to my dad, who recently passed away, and my family back home," an emotional Shrijith told *The Hindu*.

My dad always pushed me to do the right things. He always said: "Work hard, regardless of whether you are in the team or not. That drove me to work twice as hard and hopefully we will see the result in the coming days," he added.

Shrijith's celebrations upon becoming the 10th Karnataka batter to score a hundred on First Class debut were understandably subdued, but his teammates gave him a rousing ovation. After all, he had pulled Karnataka out of trouble as the Mayank Agarwal-led side has been reduced to five for two in reply to Uttar Pradesh's 89.

Support: Shrijith says his father always pushed him to do the right things. SANDEEP SAXENA

The 28-year-old, coming off a 51-ball century in the Maharaja T20 Trophy, said that the tournament helped him prepare for the next level.

"We are playing 10 to 12 games in a 15-day tournament... We play a lot of high-intensity games, and we play back-to-back games in different situations. It makes you mentally stronger; to adjust each and every day," he explained.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Karnataka left with a mountain to climb

Karnataka was left with a mountain to climb at stumps on day two of its Cooch Behar (under-19) Trophy match against Delhi at the Alur Grounds on Thursday.

On a manic day where 19 wickets fell, the host was first bundled out for 105 in its first innings after starting from an overnight 53 for five.

Delhi, armed with a first-innings lead of 88, made 140 in the second essay to set Karnataka a target of 229.

The visitor then reduced the home side to 32 for four to give itself a clear shot at victory.

The scores: Delhi 193 & 140 in 41.4 overs (Manthan Tanwar 28, Mohak Kumar 33, Dheeraj Gowda 4/42, Siddharth Akhil 3/22) vs. Karnataka 105 in 50.2 overs (Gaurov Shanbhag 29, Udhav Mohan 3/24, Arnav S. Bugga 3/18) & 32 for four in eight overs (Udhav Mohan 3/7).

Umair scores 105

Mohammed Umair (105) powered Bangalore Occasionals past The Bangalore Cricketers in the KSCA under-14 inter-club tournament.

The scores: Vijaya 231 in 48.5 overs (Rayyan Khan 26, Viaan Joshi 28, Panshul Sharma 63, Yuvaan Porwal 25, J. Karthik 4/52, Aditya Singh 4/42) bt Visweswarapuram (1) 123 in 39.4 overs (Sanjit Sathish 26).

Jawahar (1) 104 in 48 overs (Shivohum Gupta 3/4, Ramnath Nayak 3/19) lost to Vultures 105 for no loss in 20.2 overs (Anirudh Bangera 49 n.o., Bryan Thomas 50 n.o.).

Bangalore Occasionals 232/5 in 50 overs (Mohammed Umair 105, M. Rahul 38, Rahim Khan 50, Aryaman Srivastava 3/40) bt The Bangalore Cricketers 214/9 in 50 overs (T. Kaul 41, Prasad Reddy 36, Olav Deep 27, Ishaanth 30, Navaneeth Kothapalli 27, Smaran Chiranjeevi 4/40).

Karnataka Youth 251/9 in 50 overs (Ryan Tomar 41, Vikyath Chowdary 34, Yug Sachan 52 n.o., Abhay Chavan 5/46) bt Cavaliers 80 in 38.1 overs (Arya Ayyappan 3/15, Agastya Khashu 5/6).

Swastic Union (1) 332/3 in 50 overs (Samarth Suresh 91, Nitish Arya 120, Rohith Reddy 81) bt Jayanagar Cricketers 22 in 10.2 overs (Vedanth Vedanarayanan 5/13, Samrat Aditya 4/9).

Chamarajpet 109 in 29.5 overs (Saii Nikkhiil 50, Khan Suryani 5/17) lost to Modern 111/4 in 24.5 overs (Siddhanth Hiremath 47 n.o.).

Coles 132 in 40.5 overs (Abhav Bhatia 45 n.o., P. Yateesh 4/33, Shashank Prabhakar 3/34) lost to Herons 136/3 in 28.5 overs (V. Niraj 78 n.o., P. Yateesh 32, Ahan Udpi 3/32).

Jawans 115 in 40 overs (Vivaan Balamahesh 31, Sagnik 32, Ujwal Krishna 3/29, Akarsh Appinakatte 4/26) lost to Lions 117/3 in 27.1 overs (Suresh Araganji 44 n.o., Waheed Mohammad 25 n.o.).

Eleven Brother's 69 in 34.4 overs (James Rodrigues 5/12) lost to Wilson Garden 70/2 in 13.3 overs (Bhavik Suresh 30).

Kodagu blanks Kalaburagi

Kodagu blanked Kalaburagi 9-0 in the boys' hockey event in the Mini Olympic Games.

In girls' netball, Hassan defeated Davanagere 24-12.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.

Tennis: ATP finals, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 4 p.m. onwards

PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards

South Africa vs India: 4th T20I, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 8.30 p.m.

African Gold may score an encore in the Royal Calcutta Turf Club Cup

BENGALURU: African Gold, who is in rousing form as evidenced by his track movements, may score an encore in the Royal Calcutta Turf Club Cup (1,400m), the feature event of the races to be held on Friday. False rails (width about 7m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 BLACK CAVIAR PLATE (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 1.30 p.m.: 1. Continues (8) R. Pradeep 57, 2. Dr Ash (2) C. Umesh 57, 3. Enjoyable (4) A. Ramu 57, 4. Imperial Emperor (9) Vinod Shinde 57, 5. Mescalito (3) Akshay K 57, 6. Rock Bank (6) Trevor 57, 7. Wild Cannon (7) Rayan 57, 8. Yannick (1) Antony 57 and 9. Final Call (5) Sandesh 55.5.

1. FINAL CALL, 2. ROCK BANK, 3. MESCALITO

2 SHIMSHA PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 2.00: 1. Bourbon Bay (5) Vinod Shinde 62, 2. Croissantino (2) P. Sai Kumar 61.5, 3. Empress Bella (3) Arvind K 61, 4. Sea Jack (1) Ikram Ahmed 60.5, 5. Super Bold (7) Tousif 60.5, 6. Emeraldo (6) R. Pradeep 58.5, 7. Superhero (8) Rayan 56 and 8. Sacred Creator (4) Angad 53.

1. BOURBON BAY, 2. EMERALDO, 3. SUPERHERO

3 HOGENAKKAL FALLS PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 2.30: 1. Sekhmet (8) Arvind K 62, 2. Ancient History (3) P. Siddaraju 60.5, 3. Aircraft (4) Antony 60, 4. Joon (9) Vinod Shinde 59.5, 5. Count Basie (2) Trevor 55, 6. Torobrave (6) L.A. Rozario 55, 7. Imperial Star (1) Suraj 54.5, 8. Amusing (7) Salman Khan 54 and 9. Queen Of Kings (5) M. Prabhakaran 54.

1. IMPERIAL STAR, 2. TOROBRAVO, 3. COUNT BASIE

4 VIDURASHWATHA PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 3.00: 1. The Strikingly (5) R. Ravi 60, 2. Golden Beast (10) Saddam H 59.5, 3. Real Happiness (1) Trevor 59.5, 4. Basilica (3) Darshan 58, 5. Emphatic (11) Sandesh 58, 6. Feel Of Hope (7) R. Pradeep 58, 7. Jully (6) B.L. Paswan 58, 8. Valencia (4) A. Ramu 58, 9. Domina (2) Tousif 57.5, 10. Icy Wind (12) Jagadeesh 57, 11. Princess Gold (8) P. Sai Kumar 56.5 and 12. Glaze (9) M. Rajesh K 56.

1. EMPHATIC, 2. REAL HAPPINESS, 3. VALENCIA

5 ARDENT KNIGHT TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over, 3.30: 1. Aquamatic (5) Akshay K 62.5, 2. Auspicious Queen (4) Angad 60.5, 3. Crosswater (7) Antony 59.5, 4. Sassy (6) Trevor 57.5, 5. Klimt (1) C. Umesh 56, 6. Own Legacy (8) Shreyas S 55.5, 7. Victoria Doresaani (9) L.A. Rozario 55.5, 8. Star Comet (2) Rayan 53 and 9. Lex Luthor (3) Vinod Shinde 52.

1. VICTORIA DORESAANI, 2. SASSY, 3. AQUAMATIC

6 ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB CUP (1,400m), rated 80 & above, 4.00: 1. Star Glory (3) P. Siddaraju 61, 2. De Villiers (4) Shreyas S 56, 3. Dun It Again (5) Koshi K 55, 4. African Gold (2) Akshay K 54.5 and 5. Galahad (1) Trevor 52.5.

1. AFRICAN GOLD, 2. GALAHAD

7 HEBBE FALLS PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 4.30: 1. The Grey Geranium (3) M. Naveen 61.5, 2. Memorable Time (1) P. Siddaraju 60.5, 3. Peridot (10) Pavan 58.5, 4. Cat Whiskers (12) Rayan 57.5, 5. The Golden Dream (5) A. Ramu 57.5, 6. Southern Dynasty (11) Koshi K 56.5, 7. Southernaristocrat (4) Vinod Shinde 55.5, 8. Glow In The Dark (7) R. Ravi 55, 9. Mega Success (8) Jagadeesh 55, 10. Invincible (2) M. Rajesh K 54, 11. Pettes Love (6) Dhanu S 54 and 12. Raffles (9) Ikram Ahmed 54.

1. THE GREY GERANIUM, 2. CAT WHISKERS, 3. INVINCIBLE

8 VIDURASHWATHA PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5.00: 1. Priceless Prince (6) Suraj 61.5, 2. Knotty Patton (2) Asirvatham 61, 3. Mayne Magic (12) Antony 61, 4. Fast Response (11) Rayan 59, 5. The Gallery Time (5) M. Naveen 58.5, 6. True Punch (8) V. Vishwa 58.5, 7. Super Kind (9) Anish Anamo H 57.5, 8. Anchorage (1) Saddam H 55, 9. Lords Grace (4) P. Surya 55, 10. Sling Shot (10) Shreyas S 54.5, 11. Joyful Spirit (3) A. Ramu 53 and 12. Makoto (7) M. Rajesh K 53.

1. MAYNE MAGIC, 2. SLING SHOT, 3. PRICELESS PRINCE

Day's best: **AFRICAN GOLD**

Double: **FINAL CALL - MAYNE MAGIC**

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.

Campbell. FILE PHOTO

Campbell is ambassador of Tata Steel World 25K

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Former Premier League footballer Sol Campbell was on Thursday announced as the international event ambassador of the Tata Steel World 25K to be held here on Dec.15.

At 50, Cambell is still considered one of football's most iconic and versatile defenders. He is known for his immense physicality, towering presence, and remarkable football intelligence.